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Wednesday September 16 1998

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# The Guardian

Printed in London, Manchester, Frankfurt and Roubaix

NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR

G2 cover story

## Di Caprio: is he past it?

With European weather



Arts

## Previn: my first opera

G2 pages 10-11



Finance

## Inflation hits target at last

This section page 11



Jonathan Aitken outside court yesterday with daughter Alexandra, who watched the hearing from the public gallery

PHOTOGRAPH: MARTIN ARSELES

## Aitken in dock over libel case

Disgraced ex-minister bailed on perjury and conspiracy charges

Rory Carroll

**J**ONATHAN Aitken, the disgraced former Conservative cabinet minister, appeared in court yesterday for the first time since being charged with conspiracy, perjury and perverting the course of justice. Aitken arrived at Bow Street magistrates' court in central London with his daughter Alexandra, aged 15. The former MP's wife Lolita was named for the first time as a co-conspirator in charges relating to the collapse in June last year of Aitken's libel action against the Guardian and Granada Television's World In Action programme.

She left him just before the action collapsed over allegations that he allowed an Arab friend to pay his £1,000 hotel bill at the Paris Ritz in 1993, while he was defence procurement minister. Although

named on the indictment, Mrs Aitken has not been charged and is believed to be living in Belgrade.

Aitken, aged 56, sat beside Said Mohammed Ayes, his former business partner, who was charged with him last May. Both wore navy suits and spoke only to confirm their names. They stood to hear the charges but were not required to enter a plea.

The maximum sentence for perverting the course of justice is life imprisonment, while perjury carries a seven-year jail term.

Alexandra Aitken watched from the public gallery. Her twin sister Victoria was interviewed by police during the investigation but no charges were brought against her.

A throng of photographers and cameramen surrounded them when they arrived at the court in central London in a Jeep. The pair smiled but said nothing while posing amid wolf whistles, jeers and



Lolita Aitken: named for first time as co-conspirator

cheers. They ignored a scuffle between a radio reporter and photographers.

Aitken, who was Chief Secretary to the Treasury in 1994-95, lost his Thanet South parliamentary seat at last year's election. He did not acknowledge the two dozen reporters seated next to him in the public gallery.

Aitken and Ayes, a former

aide to the Saudi Arabian royal family, faced one joint charge, that they conspired to pervert the course of justice, with Lolita, between April 9, 1995, and June 21, 1997.

The charge alleged that they signed witness statements on March 10, February 20, and January 7, 1997, and allowed them to be submitted in the High Court action against the Guardian and Granada, knowing that they were false.

Aitken maintained Lolita and Victoria were in Paris before travelling to Geneva on September 17, 1995, and while in Paris had stayed at Ayes's daughter's flat. He also falsely claimed that on September 19 his wife Lolita partly settled his Ritz hotel bill with 4,257 French francs in cash. It was alleged.

Ayes, aged 56, was solely charged with trying to pervert the course of justice between April 9, 1995, and June 21, 1997, by signing a false witness statement claiming Lolita and Victoria stayed at his daughter's flat and that he saw Lolita in the Ritz. In addition, Aitken faced

three charges, including one of perjury, over his sworn High Court testimony that his wife paid the bill.

The other two charges were of perverting the course of justice. One related to his drafting of a witness statement, in the name of Victoria, claiming falsely that she and her mother travelled by ferry and train to Paris and stayed in Ayes's daughter's flat, and that on September 19 Victoria spoke by telephone with her grandmother. The other charge related to his own witness statement about those events.

Aitken originally sued the Guardian and World In Action over revelations that he provided prostitutes for Arabs, was financially dependent upon them, and was involved in secret arms deals.

Yesterday's 46-minute hearing was due to have started committal proceedings, but Fust Amin, prosecuting, said there had been delays gathering evidence. Stipendiary magistrate Graham Parkinson adjourned the case until October 19 and granted Aitken and Ayes conditional bail.

## Blairites in panic over left

Seumas Milne and Ewen MacAskill

**A** FRESH round of Labour factional fighting broke out last night after it emerged that a private marketing firm was being paid to canvass support for the Blairite slate in the party's national executive elections at the rate of £1 a telephone call.

The canvassing drive is being carried out by a Brighton-based firm, Personal Telephone Fundraising, run by a friend of Lord Bassam, who is organising the campaign for the Members First candidates standing in the NEC ballot.

The Amalgamated Engineering and Electrical Union is picking up the bill.

The move follows speculation by Labour Party sources last week that Members First, the pro-leadership candidates, were trailing in early returns, with the left-leaning Grassroots Alliance slate likely to pick up four of the 250 places elected by ordinary Labour members. Voting is still continuing.

The NEC has lost much of its power in recent party reorganisation, but the elections are an important test of grassroots opinion. The party leadership by Labour Party sources last week that Members First, the pro-leadership candidates, were trailing in early returns, with the left-leaning Grassroots Alliance slate likely to pick up four of the 250 places elected by ordinary Labour members. Voting is still continuing.

Labour and union sources claimed last night panic was creeping into party headquarters at Millbank, with officials blaming one another for the threatened rout.

A spokesman for the AEEU, which is regarded as being on the right of the trade union movement, said the cost of the canvassing would be at least £25,000, adding: "We made clear if Members First need external help, we will fund it."

The AEEU has also paid for national newspaper advertisements — said by the union to have cost another £15,000 — as well as leaflets, postage and organisational back-up.

A senior official said yesterday: "We are backing Members First because its candidates are moderate and supportive of the Government, but not unbridled."

He made one of the most personal attacks yet on the Grassroots Alliance: "We don't want Liz Davies or

Labour calling

Personal Telephone Fundraising Company: Hello, I am phoning on behalf of Members First.

Labour Party member: Yes? PTFC: Have you received your ballot paper for the NEC election?

Member: Yes. PTFC: I am phoning on behalf of a group of activists who want to see a partnership between Parliament and ordinary members rather than a return to the old days of splits and conflict. The party wants you to vote for six candidates [names of Members First slate read out].

Member: Are you one of the candidates?

PTFC: No.

Member: What do you mean?

PTFC: I don't mean the Labour Party itself. What I should have said was the Members First Committee. Based on an actual conversation as recalled by party member Jacqui Brown.

Peter Williams or Mark Seddon on the NEC because they represent trouble for the Labour Party and everything that went wrong in the 1980s."

Mr Seddon, one of the Grassroots Alliance's candidates and editor of the weekly Tribune magazine, said the party needed "proper rules and a level playing field" for its elections, with restrictions on spending in line with the expected recommendations of the Neill committee on party funding. He added: "We don't

want to go down the American road, where money buys votes."

Jacqui Brown, one of the Labour members phoned at home in London by the canvassing company, said last night: "I am concerned about where they got my number. I find the whole thing exceedingly shady."

A Labour spokesman, insisting Millbank was neutral, played down the significance of phone canvassing and said that such tactics were part of electioneering.

Millbank would not provide membership lists to any of the camps but they would not be difficult to obtain as they were distributed among party officials and unions, he said. "They could hand them on to third parties and there is no way we could control it."

The operations manager of Personal Telephone Fundraising, Vicky Rawlinson, refused to answer questions about the company yesterday.

"We are too busy to speak to newspapers about it," she said.

A spokesman for Members First, whose candidates include gay rights campaigner Michael Cashman and trade unionist Diana Jenda, admitted there had been canvassing but insisted it had not been extensive and had been done by Lord Bassam's friends to test the effectiveness of such campaigning. It had been decided not to continue because such canvassing annoyed people and because they found most people had voted already.

The Grassroots Alliance said it had been given an undertaking by the CHB general secretary, John Edmonds, not to interfere in the election.

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Direct Line	£203.20	£4064.00	-
Abbey National Life	£272.64	£5452.80	£1408.80
Nationwide Life	£294.00	£5880.00	£1836.00

Source: Life and Pensions Moneyfacts - July 1998

## England expects . . . every man to do a length of the pool



Vivak Chaudhary

**I**T HAS been the envy of the world and the pride of the country, tackling enemies and hazardous seas for the past 400 years. But now the Royal Navy has sent an SOS to the Government to help it overcome a problem a bit closer to home — sailors who cannot swim.

Naval officials have complained after figures showed that 20 per cent of recruits are failing the swimming test. In some cases, says the navy, recruits are petrified of water and cannot even find the courage to jump into a swimming pool.

The navy believes the problem stems from young people not being taught to swim from an early age, while schools place more emphasis on academic subjects at the expense of swimming and other sports.

Captain Chris Tuffley, director of Naval Physical Training and Sport, said: "We are getting young people who are very bad swimmers or in some cases can't swim at all. Some are literally scared of the water and have never even been in a swimming pool. We then have to teach them and this is costing us time and money."

Recruits have to undertake a 16-week training course and

all have to pass the navy's swimming test if they wish to be signed up as full-time sailors. The test involves swimming the length of a swimming pool in overalls and treading water for three minutes. Recruits are interviewed before being admitted to the training course but Mr Tuffley says some overestimate their swimming skills while others simply lie.

He added: "If they told us during the interviews that they cannot swim at all or are afraid of the water then obviously we would not take them and this is costing us time and money. It's a bit strange that anyone who cannot swim or

is scared of the water would want to join the navy."

"Once they are on the training course we have to do our best to ensure they pass. But we want the Government to step in to ensure all young people are taught to swim while at school and are fit so that they can come prepared to the armed forces."

The navy's case has been taken up by John Speller, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Defence, and the Central Council of Physical Recreation (CCPR), which represents 250 sports bodies and has undertaken research on swimming and fitness levels among young people.

A spokesman for the Department of Education said: "We acknowledge that these are important areas. It's vital for children to receive a broad and balanced curriculum and that includes PE and swimming. Swimming is essential . . . for all children. Our guidelines clearly state that all children should be able to swim 25 metres by the age of 11."

Nigel Hook, of the CCPR, said: "Sailors being scared of the water may sound funny but behind it is a more serious issue. Many pools are being closed and schools are ignoring sport for academic subjects. Not only are our children paying a heavy price but so are the armed forces."

Obituaries 10  
Comment 8; Crossword 16  
Quick Crossword 15  
Weather, Radio and TV 16

## Inside

Britain  
World News  
Finance  
Sport

Britain  
World News  
Finance  
Sport

Britain  
World News  
Finance  
Sport

Britain  
World News  
Finance  
Sport

Britain  
World News  
Finance  
Sport

4

7

11

15



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In *The Guardian* tomorrow: Nick Leeson — will the film tell the whole story of the rogue trader?

After plea from union leaders to save jobs, Bank's governor sticks to anti-inflation policy but hints that rates have peaked at 7.5pc

## George rules out interest rate cut

Michael White and David Gow

**T**HE governor of the Bank of England, Eddie George, yesterday told the TUC that there would be no immediate cuts in interest rates. But he soothed their demands for urgent action to save 250,000 manufacturing jobs by hinting that rates have peaked at their current level of 7.5 per cent.

In an historic first speech by a governor of the Bank to the City's traditional enemies — he called it a visit to the lion's den — Mr George stuck to the anti-inflationary policies that have angered delegates at the 130th annual TUC.

Minutes before he spoke, the Engineers' leader, Ken Jackson, had made a passionate plea for a rate cut to save jobs. So did textile workers. But the TUC's general secretary, John Monks, took a more cautious line when he said the unions wanted the pound to fall from 2.85 German marks to around 2.50. "Too precipitate a fall could certainly endanger inflation," he conceded.

Mr George also adopted a conciliatory tone. Faced with union demands that he broaden the membership of the Bank's monetary policy committee, which now sets interest rates, he reassured some delegates that the committee is as concerned about jobs as they are.

His members were not what they were painted, not "a crowd of pointy heads, inflation nutters or even manufacturing boogymen", Mr George told them.

The conference listened in polite silence to what some delegates later called "an interesting economic lecture". But there was no heckling, occasional laughter and even applause for what was clearly a heavyweight appeal for their understanding.

Tony Blair later took up the governor's theme at a private dinner with the TUC general council in Blackpool. Holding down inflation is vital to long-term growth and jobs, and there is no trade-off between the two, both men insisted. Mr Blair also echoed John Prescott's warning to the TUC this week. "Let's confront these problems, not exaggerate them," he told the TUC dinner.

Mr George, who listened to his critics speaking from the rostrum before speaking himself, promised delegates that the Bank would be just as rigorous in cutting interest rates if there was any danger of under-shooting the Government's 2.5 per cent inflation target, instead of over-shooting it.

Despite the problems in the international economy and

slackening growth and demand at home "this is still not the most likely outcome in the eyes of most of us," he said. But he concluded with cautious optimism.

"There is no doubt in my mind that recent international developments have at least reduced the likelihood that we will need to tighten policy further," Mr George said, in what was a nod at the deflationary impact of the Asian crisis.

The Bank was well aware that manufacturing had suffered because of the six interest rate rises since the election, but his job was to look at the economy as a whole. If inflation took hold again, manufacturing would have suffered anyway.

"The stark choice confronting us was either to tighten policy, knowing that that would inevitably increase the pain which the internationally exposed sectors were already suffering, or to disregard the developing excess overall demand in order to protect the internationally exposed sectors from further damage," he said.

The City expects rates to start falling only later this year or early in 1999. Mr George implicitly encouraged that view. But he was stern about past efforts in the sixties and seventies to "buy faster growth and higher employment even at the expense of a bit more inflation. In effect we were trying to squeeze a quart out of a pint pot."

Mr Blair later flew to Blackpool for private talks with union leaders and dinner before heading to his Sedgefield constituency for today's visit to local factories hit by what ministers insist are global problems, not caused by high British interest rates and sterling.

The Prime Minister told reporters in Blackpool: "What is important is that interest rate decisions are made in the long term interest of the economy. People should never forget that. If we manage to get past the interest rate peak with interest rates peaking at 7.5 per cent, compare that with the early 1930s when interest rates were 15 per cent and manufacturing output fell 7 per cent."

Union leaders' reaction to the George speech was mixed. Roger Lyons, head of the white collar MSF union, said the governor had failed to address the problem of a "twin track economy" over-riding the service sector while manufacturing floundered.

"He wants to hold on to high interest rates for a few months. I wish it were for just a few more weeks," said Mr Lyons.

Peter Robinson, page 5; Inflation on target at least, City Notebook, page 11



Eddie George, governor of the Bank of England, left, with the TUC general secretary, John Monks, in Blackpool yesterday

'The stark choice was to tighten policy, knowing that would inevitably increase the pain which internationally exposed sectors were suffering, or disregard the developing excess overall demand in order to protect the internationally exposed sectors from further damage'

Eddie George

## Capitalism falling apart, says Soros

Alex Brummer Financial Editor

**T**HE financier George Soros warned last night that the global capitalist system is in danger of imploding following the panic flight of capital from the emerging markets of Latin America, in the wake of the Russian crisis.

In testimony to the US Congress, Mr Soros said: "The global capitalist system has been responsible for our remarkable prosperity in coming apart at the seams." He said there was "general panic" in Latin American

markets and that a financial collapse in Brazil could spread to Argentina. His remarks came amid reports that the Latin American countries are negotiating with international lenders to put together a \$100 billion emergency loan fund for the region.

The latest Soros intervention, coming in the aftermath of this week's efforts by President Clinton and the Group of Seven industrial countries to restore confidence in the global economic system, appears certain to shake financial markets.

When Mr Soros called for a "rouble devaluation" in August he sparked a financial and po-

litical crisis in Russia which resulted in a collapse in the rouble, costing Mr Soros's investment funds an estimated \$2 billion.

In his testimony, Mr Soros lends his weight to the Clinton administration's demand that Congress immediately authorise its \$18 billion contribution to a capital increase for the International Monetary Fund, which is rapidly running out of cash. He also revises his own idea of an international insurance fund to protect countries against speculative attacks such as himself.

Mr Soros, the chairman of Soros Fund Management which invests on behalf of

rich savers, said the default of Russian banks on their obligations and the subsequent shutdown of Malaysia's financial markets to foreigners has led to a "global credit crunch in the making".

"The flight of capital has now spread to Brazil and put the rest of Latin America at risk," he argued. His comments follow the decision of the Brazilian authorities to raise interest rates as high as 50 per cent to protect the country's currency — the real. Similar moves were attempted in Moscow before it succumbed to pressure to devalue with disastrous consequences.

Mr Soros cautioned US policymakers against complacency just because most of the trouble is occurring outside the US. He said the global capitalist system involved not only free trade but, even more importantly, the free movement of capital in a "gigantic circulatory system" in which capital was sucked up by financial markets and institutions at the centre and pumped out to the periphery. The Asian crisis reversed the direction of that flow, Mr Soros said. Capital began to flee the periphery, at first to the benefit of the financial markets at the centre. The US economy then en-

joyed the best of all possible worlds as cheap imports helped to keep inflation in check and stock prices moved to new highs.

But Soros said the crisis had reached the point where distress at the periphery was not good for the centre. "The pain at the periphery has become so intense that individual countries have begun to opt out of the capitalist system, or simply fall by the wayside," he said.

He said the programmes of the international monetary authorities had not worked and those authorities had been unable to reassure the financial markets.

## Boy, 16, jailed over 'fare dodge'

Prison reform group condemns remand to crowded adult prison

Geoffrey Gibbs

**A** 16-YEAR-OLD homeless boy has been sent to an adult prison after being charged with failing to pay his rail fare, prompting condemnation by prison reformers.

The youth, who cannot be named for legal reasons, was remanded to Exeter prison, one of the most overcrowded jails in the country, when his case was adjourned for 11 days by magistrates in Newton Abbot, Devon. He is due to appear before magistrates again on Friday.

The boy is understood to have been in foster care in Devon when he decided to

visit his natural mother in Manchester. He had hoped she would pay his return fare, but she did not do so.

The teenager's solicitor told magistrates the boy surrendered to police because he wanted the charges dealt with so that he would be able to join the army. The boy was accused of the ticket offence and failing to give his name to an inspector, and faced further charges of handling two pairs of stolen socks and failing to surrender to bail.

The Howard League for Penal Reform said it was shocked by the decision. "We should not be sending children to prison as the only way of feeding them and keeping a roof over their head."

Its director, Frances Crook, said the organisation did not take up individual cases other than in exceptional circumstances but it would be putting pressure on the boy's solicitors and on social services to get him out of prison.

"This is wrong — we have to find some other way of dealing with this child," she added. "This is a child with emotional problems who wanted his mummy and is in need of care. He has not committed any serious or violent offences."

Devon social services, which is in the process of establishing a remand fostering scheme to recruit foster carers for young people awaiting a criminal court appearance, had no one available to comment on the case. The local authority has previously criticised the practice of remanding young people to prison because of evidence of self-

harm, bullying, drug use and sexual abuse. Exeter prison, where 10 inmates, including two teenagers, have committed suicide since 1990, officially has places for 42 young offenders.

According to the Howard League the number of young people being held in prison has increased sharply since the early 1990s. Its figures show around 900 15-year-olds are currently being held on remand or serving sentences, compared with only 20 five or six years ago.

"There has not been an explosion in child crime," said Ms Crook. "It's a change in sentencing, a more punitive approach by courts because of political pressure by successive home secretaries and public opinion. As a result, we end up with cases like this 15-year-old who is a boy in need of care and support."

## Review

Lyn Gardner

Alarms and Excursions The Gielgud Theatre, London

**W**ITH many predicting global meltdown as a result of the millennium bug, Michael Frayn's cautionary tales about gizmos, gadgets and humans on the brink could hardly be more timely. Or funnier.

Taking the form of eight playlets, the evening is subtitled *More Plays Than One*, and even if this collection ends up being something a bit staid, it's less than his last play — the seriously thought-provoking moral thriller, *Copenhagen* — there is entertainment enough to be had from

Michael Blakemore's glossy cast and staged production. In *Alarms*, Felicity Kendal and Nicky Katt invite the luckless Jodie Lawrence and Robert Bathurst to a dinner party that soon shows all the hallmarks of a classic farce: the protagonists are having the worst day of their lives.

Frayn ups the stakes by multiplying the situation by four and throws in defective smoke alarms, kitchen timers, internal phone systems and corkscrews for good measure and good laughter.

In the final sketch, *Immobilis*, which stars an answering machine, a defective relationship is shown up for what it is by a series of misunderstandings and missed appointments charted in hilarious and gossamer detail via public call boxes and the answering machine which finally explodes in protest.

In between are sandwiched a number of extended observations on the nature of communication, some trite, as in the airline safety spoof *Look Away Now*, and some wittily deceptive in *Toasters* a group of middle managers listen to their chairman's pep talk while burdened by briefcases, wine glasses, plates, documents and a desperate desire to do the right thing. "Let us pray that we go on to achieve..." intones the chairman, and they all fall to their knees.

Of course, what this evening is really about is less the unreliability of machines and more that of people, particularly when they insist on behaving like machines.

But even when it hints at the serious, the tone of the evening is relentlessly light-weight and although Frayn frequently stretches his sce-

narios to the limit there is very little here to stretch the audience beyond the belly laughs of rueful recognition.

The cast play with great gusto — Felicity Kendal turning in an unexpected Mrs Thatcher parody as a politician with the hairdo and ferocity of a rabid badger whose planned speech on regionalisation in the watercress industry is doomed by a disgruntled autocue operator. But the pieces are so brief and so reliant on the theatre of gesture that what you end up admiring is the technical expertise of these actors rather than their performances.

While we're on the subject of technical expertise, John A. Leonard's soundscape of chinks, buzzes, bells and alarms deserves an award all of its own. This review appeared in later editions yesterday.

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An Albanian opposition supporter on a hijacked tank guards the Democratic Party headquarters in the capital Tirana yesterday (left). The party's leader, President Sali Berisha (right), called on the Socialist prime minister, Fatos Nano, to resign at an opposition rally watched over by police (top right)



PHOTOGRAPHS: HRVOKO POLAN AND HEKTOR PUSTINA

## Videotape joins sex and lies as threat to Clinton

Martin Kettle in Washington

**B**ILL CLINTON'S Republican opponents yesterday set the scene for a further public humiliation of the embattled president by pressing for the release within days of the videotape of Mr Clinton's August 17 testimony to the independent counsel, Kenneth Starr.

With the United States reeling from last week's Starr report revelations about Mr Clinton's White House sex sessions with Monica Lewinsky, the Republican majority on the House of Representatives' judicial committee was set to vote down Democrats to release the video as early as Friday.

The video, part of 18 boxes of supplementary material submitted to Congress with Mr Starr's report, shows Mr Clinton's anger and evasiveness as investigators quizzed him for four and a half hours at the White House last month about his relationship with Ms Lewinsky.

It shows him losing his temper repeatedly, including one outburst in which he objects to answering questions about a sexual act with Ms Lewinsky involving a cigar. The president accuses the investigators of "trying to criminalise my private life".

As reported at the time, Mr Clinton became so angry that he took an hour's break to recover his composure.

White House aides believe the judiciary committee has moved to release the video, in which the camera remains on Mr Clinton and none of his inquisitors appears, to keep the president on the defensive in the run-up to mid-term elections on November 3.

They privately accused the committee last night of trying to ensure that the video sets the agenda for influential weekend television talk shows and can be used by Republican candidates in election broadcasts.

Washington opinion was divided on whether the video would harm or help Mr Clinton. Though the White House fears it could have a devastating effect on Mr Clinton's credibility similar to that of the White House Watergate tapes on Richard Nixon, some

members of both parties suggested the embarrassment of the questioning might create sympathy for Mr Clinton.

Meanwhile, Paula Jones's lawyers said they would press for the president to be cited for contempt of court in her sexual harassment case and for Ms Jones's civil damages suit to be reopened.

In another development, a television reporter linked to Mr Clinton in the Starr report issued a cryptic disclaimer yesterday. Eleanor Mondale, aged 38, a CBS reporter who is the daughter of the former vice-president Walter Mondale, confirmed that she visited Mr Clinton on December 6 1995, a day when Ms Lewinsky caused a public scene when refused entrance to the White House.

"I have no knowledge of anything else that may have taken place that day," Ms Mondale said.

The judiciary committee meets later this week to continue debate on whether to release other parts of Mr Starr's supplementary material. Last week the House gave the committee until September 28 to decide.

The release of fresh material has emerged as a clear Republican tactic as the November elections approach. Republican leaders appear to want to milk Mr Clinton's humiliation for electoral advantage while they weigh their constitutional options on his possible impeachment.

Senator Frank Murkowski of Alaska yesterday became the most senior Republican to come out in favour of the "censure plus" option widely favoured by Democrats. In addition to accepting a congressional censure, Mr Clinton should agree to pay a proportion of the costs of the Starr inquiry, which he had unnecessarily prolonged by "a calculated deception", Mr Murkowski said.

Mr Starr told Mr Murkowski yesterday that the costs of his inquiry since Mr Clinton denied any sexual relationship in January have reached \$4.4 million (\$2.6 million).

Keeping faith, page 7; Jonathan Freedland and Polly Toynbee, page 8; Leader comment and Mark Steel, page 9

## Stalemate in Albanian capital as hijacked tanks guard rebel HQ

Prime Minister emerges from hiding to warn leaders of uprising to lay down their arms, writes **Owen Bowcott** in Tirana

**T**WO hijacked tanks, one bearing the portrait of a murdered opposition politician, the other, littered with empty Coca-Cola bottles, guarded the Democratic Party headquarters in the Albanian capital, Tirana, yesterday.

Commandeered café chairs stood behind sandbag barricades as demonstrators rested Kalashnikov machine-guns on their knees. Some 300 yards away interior ministry police manning checkpoints ignored chants accusing Albania's Socialist prime minister, Fatos Nano, of the murder.

While British and European companies urged staff to leave for fear of imminent civil war, and some international flights were delayed because of the chaos, Tirana was adjusting to a bizarre political stand-off in the heart of the city.

Mr Nano, emerging from hiding after Monday's violence when his office and residence were looted, accused President Sali Berisha of trying to stage a coup. He demanded that opposition supporters give up their arms.

Two days after the assassination of a popular Berisha ally, Mr Nano "solemnly guaranteed" President Berisha's safety if he and his followers

lowered their weapons. But in a clear warning to the opposition, Mr Nano added: "Sali Berisha should not think that we shall wait endlessly for all the weapons to come out of the Democratic Party headquarters. Time is short."

Mr Berisha, who controls private radio and television stations, has continued broadcasting messages of defiance and repeated claims that the government was responsible

for the politician's assassination.

The government has dismissed the violence as a failed coup d'état and it seems confident it will rattle out without further bloodshed. The widespread rumour among its trouble-weary supporters is that Mr Berisha, the charismatic leader of the Democratic Party, arranged the assassination of his colleague, Azem Hajdari, on Saturday night to provide the pretext for an uprising.

On Monday Mr Berisha

issued an ultimatum to the prime minister to resign in favour of an interim government.

Democratic Party supporters armed with weapons looted from army stores during last year's unrest marched on Mr Nano's office and opened fire. The government escaped through the back door. The demonstrators moved on to a nearby barracks and seized several aged tanks, driving two of them back triumphantly to party headquarters.

Shattered glass and mangled shutters littered the steps of the prime minister's deserted office yesterday, guarded by two army soldiers. Armoured personnel carriers toured the outskirts in a show of force that will do

little to intimidate the armed opposition.

Behind the barricades yesterday, Hajdari's picture was plastered over walls above the slogan: "He believed in God, democracy and you." Floral tributes marked the spot where he was gunned down along with two bodyguards.

"There will be peace the moment Nano resigns," Sali Hajdari, the brother of the murdered politician, promised the crowds milling around the entrance to the in-

surrection's headquarters, where the Albanian flag hung at half mast.

"We are not going to surrender until peace comes," he added. "Nano was the real murderer."

At about 5pm, when Tirana's streets are normally thronged with shoppers and people heading for the bars, Mr Berisha appeared at the head of an armed motorcade moving along the half empty boulevards.

Greeted by applauding party stalwarts he raised two fingers for victory before walking swiftly inside, surrounded by bodyguards.

"This is a terrible tragedy," said Barder Vuciterni, an engineer who spent decades in prison under the former Socialist regime of Enver Hoxha. "We are going back towards a communist dictatorship."

He added: "We are prepared to use force, but first we want to use democratic means. We want to defend our freedom and Hajdari's ideals. He was our symbol as a student leader who opposed the communist regime."

Away from the protest, the rest of Tirana was reported to be calm. A demonstration earlier in the day passed off without incident. Police had been told by the government that they could open fire without warning if threatened.

Long lines of police cars, their sirens blaring and Kalashnikov rifles poking out of their windows, circled the centre of the city yesterday afternoon in an attempt to reassure the population that

order was being restored. Many protesters are from northern Albania, where Mr Berisha has his power base and where the fate of the ethnic Albanians in the Serbian province of Kosovo is a more emotive issue.

The violence has reinforced ancient tensions between the north and south of the

country. A local shopkeeper peered down the narrow streets to where Mr Berisha's supporters were examining a hijacked tank's gun sight as though it were a new toy.

"They are the scum of the scum," he muttered, while cries of "We are not communists, we are democrats" were taken up by the distant crowd.

## Call for international policing

Ian Traynor in Bonn

**G**ERMANY and Italy yesterday called for international police patrols in the southern Balkans and for European Union funds to tackle the problems created by the influx of refugees from Kosovo.

In a letter to Wolfgang Schäfer, the Austrian foreign minister whose government holds the EU presidency, the countries demanded an EU mission to strengthen Albania "socially, institutionally, economically, and in security terms".

"A repeat of spring 1997, when all public order collapsed and Albania sank into anarchy and chaos, has to be avoided," said the joint letter from the German and Italian foreign ministers, Klaus Kinkel and Lamberto Dini.

Germany and Italy are preoccupied with the threat of refugees arriving in their countries from Albania and Kosovo, where almost 300,000 people, overwhelmingly ethnic Albanians, have been uprooted and left homeless in the conflict with Kosovo's Serb rulers.

Bonn offered strong support for the Albanian govern-

ment of former communists led by Fatos Nano.

Mr Kinkel and Mr Dini proposed sending an international police mission to Albania "to support the Albanian authorities in maintaining law and order".

They also called for action to stem the flow of weapons and fighters from northern Albania into Kosovo in support of the Albanian insurgency there. Funds from Brussels were also needed to help Albania cope with its refugee crisis, to halt illegal migration and to combat "organised crime and people-smuggling criminals".

Up to 3,000 Kosovan Albanians are entering Germany every month but can no longer be deported to Yugoslavia because the Yugoslav airline JAT, used to transport the deportees, has just been banned in the EU.


Bonn's main policy towards the escalating crisis is to confine the hundreds of thousands of displaced people to the region, financing their temporary resettlement in Macedonia, Montenegro and Albania.

But Montenegro has closed its borders to Kosovan refugees and is demanding more money from the EU.

There are stories of how Leo indulges his every whim. On Oscar night he was heard to utter the drunken cry of "Let's rent a plane. I want to go to India!" When he fancied seeing some art, the Metropolitan Museum in New York was opened specially for him, a privilege only previously afforded to presidents. Is Leonardo DiCaprio going off the rails?

G2 cover story

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John Ezard on the attempts to find next-of-kin of Corporal George Froud, killed in 1944 and found last July, before his burial on Friday

# Army appeal to Arnhem hero's family



Corporal George Froud, posted missing in 1944, aged 27

**W**ITH only three days to go before his funeral, the army last night made an appeal to trace the family of a young paratrooper killed in the battle for Arnhem more than half a century ago.

After a military career full of campaign medals, Corporal George Froud was killed at the age of 27 when the glider carrying him crashed into the battlefield near Oosterbeek, Holland, in September, 1944.

One of 1,200 British dead in the abortive attack, the paratrooper left a widow and three year-old son in Hertfordshire who could only guess at his fate. Last July a Dutch farmer found his body in a field. Until then he had been posted as missing.

On Friday he will be buried with full military honours at

the Commonwealth war graves ceremony at Oosterbeek — alongside two other servicemen whose bodies were recently discovered.

Families of these two will be at the graveside. But a 14-month search by the army has failed to find any of Corporal Froud's next-of-kin.

This is despite copious official records about him. He joined the army in 1931 as a 14-year-old. During his 13-year service he was awarded the Palestine Medal 1940, the 1939-45 Star, the War Medal 1939-1945, and the Defence Medal Italy Star.

According to records, the corporal married Vera Jay in 1940. A son, Terrance, was born in May, 1941, at Brockton Hall, in Hertfordshire, which was used as a make-shift maternity home during the war.

Terrance was adopted by

Corporal Froud's older sister, Winnie, in 1946. Vera remarried in 1952 and moved to the Oxford area.

During the war Vera and Terrance lived at Goring-by-Sea, in West Sussex — where all Corporal Froud's belongings were sent. But the trail has petered out.

The closest link the army has found to his past is Doug Payne, from Swindon, Terrance's godfather and best man at the corporal's wedding. However he is in his eighties and has said he can not attend the funeral because of poor health.

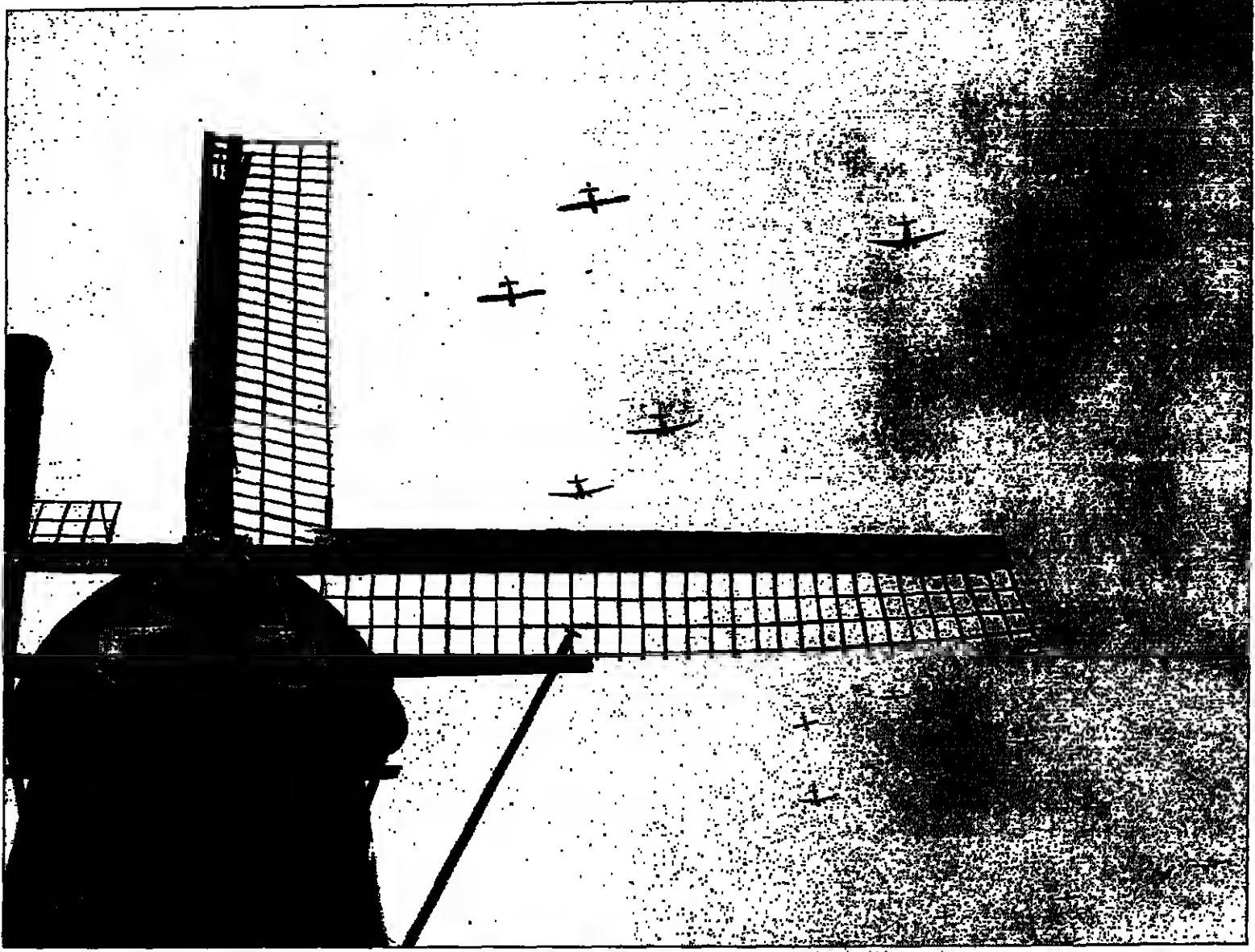
The army appealed to anyone who believes they are related to Corporal Froud to call 01980 615562.

The army is sad at its failure in view of its success with media help — earlier this year in finding the relatives of two men whose bodies were identified after they fell at the battle of Arras in April, 1917.

The lost corporal's two Arnhem fellow-servicemen, Sergeant Lawrence Howes and Sergeant David Thompson, whose bodies were found in 1994, will receive a full military burial service at Oosterbeek at 2.30pm on Friday.

The Arnhem offensive, part of Operation Market Garden, was a bid by General Montgomery and others to "end the war by Christmas" through bypassing Nazi German fortifications and driving troops into Germany through lightly defended territory.

The British task was to seize two Rhine bridges. But panzers hit back more rapidly than expected and Germans found British battle plans in a crashed glider. The last British and Polish troops had to surrender their bridgehead after nine days. Germany held Arnhem until April, 1945.



Allied aircraft and gliders in the skies over Valkenswaard, south of Eindhoven, in the Netherlands, on their way to the battle of Arnhem in 1944

## Spurned lover 'put au pair through hell'



Stuart Billingham, charged under anti-stalking laws

Sarah Mall

**A**FRENCH former au pair told a court yesterday how her boss and lover subjected her to "four years of hell" after she ended their relationship and became an air stewardess.

Stuart Billingham, a former police officer who became a prison officer, wrote to the airline where Nathalie Ehlinger worked accusing her of being "a liar and a cheat" and alleging that she had a drink problem. Harlow magistrates in Essex were told.

He also asked Essex police to investigate the alleged dishonesty, and distributed a letter making similar allegations to ground staff and the public at Stansted airport, to shoppers in Bishop's Cleeve, Hertfordshire, and to a bank and cricket club during his campaign of harassment, the court heard. He faces two

charges under the new anti-stalking laws.

Ms Ehlinger, aged 27, fought back tears as she told the court that Billingham, aged 62, had put her through hell over the four years. "I feel really awful," she added. "I have never cheated and I have never lied."

She had been "very humiliated" by the letters sent to her employer, Air UK, and circulated at the airport. "I was very distraught and I burst into tears."

In heated exchanges she told Billingham, who is representing himself and cross-examined her: "I was scared of losing my job. I want you to stop writing the letters and stop harassing me."

The court heard that Ms Ehlinger, from Alsace, had begun a relationship with Billingham, who was separated from his wife, after taking a job at his home in Shrewsbury, Shropshire, to look

after his two children, then aged 10 and eight, in 1992.

Some 15 months later she returned to France to take an air stewardess course and broke off the relationship.

She began to work for Air UK, now KLM UK, at Stansted in 1995. Last year Billingham, a prison officer at Shrewsbury jail, wrote a series of letters to her employers accusing her of lying about her health to get the post.

In one letter, to the company's head of personnel, David McGammon, he withdrew the original glowing reference he had sent to support her job application and warned him about her "drinking". The airline conducted an investigation but found the allegations to be groundless.

David Rochera, prosecuting, told the court that Billingham's letter-writing campaign extended far and wide. He read statements from an employee at a Barclays Bank

branch in Harlow and a receptionist at Essex County Cricket Club, explaining how they too had been sent letters disparaging Ms Ehlinger, whom they did not even know.

Billingham also sent Ms Ehlinger a number of letters via Air UK, and a package containing a torn T-shirt and a shattered pair of headphones she had left at his house, the court heard.

He then obtained a court order against her for £45, which he claimed he was owed for returning her belongings to France.

Ms Ehlinger, who was supported in court by her parents and fiancé, vehemently denied his accusations.

Billingham denies writing malicious and untrue letters to Ms Ehlinger's employer in August last year and of distributing copies of a similar letter to members of the public in October.

The case continues today.

## Net companies accuse BT

Ofcom asked to intervene after use of phone records to sell service

Stuart Millar

**B**ITISH Telecom has become embroiled in a row over its new pay-as-you-go internet service amid allegations that it is using customer billing records to target existing net users.

The Internet Service Providers Association, the main industry body, has written to Ofcom, the telecommunications regulator, accusing BT sales

staff of contacting other companies' subscribers to promote the new service, code-named Click, after identifying them from their telephone bills.

The row broke out after the internet news service, zinet news, revealed that a BT saleswoman had promoted

Click to a customer after calling to advise him of money-saving offers. The customer had listed the telephone number for his internet connection as one of his 10 "Friends and Family" numbers.

Since then, zinet claims it has received two further complaints from readers who say they were contacted by a BT salesperson who promoted Click while discussing money-saving options.

BT admitted the original call took place but insisted it was an isolated incident. "The telesales adviser was talking to a customer about his Friends and Family numbers when she diverted from the script," a spokeswoman said yesterday. "She should not have done that, and we have reminded all staff that

they must stick to their script. We believe this was a one-off, although we are investigating to see if there were any more incidents."

But Laurence Blackall, ISPA chairman, said: "BT has seriously shot itself in the foot. I think that Ofcom should take a very tough line against BT dictating what the rules are. After all, it is there to police the industry."

Richard Barry, of zinet, said: "This gives the regulator the opportunity to look more closely at BT's proposals for Click. If they fail to intervene, the whole industry will be up in arms."

Ofcom said yesterday it would review any evidence it received that BT was breaching its licence conditions to promote the Click service by using its market dominance in one area to its benefit in another. Ofcom cannot intervene until a service is running.

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The Guardian Wednesday September 16 1998

BRITAIN 5

## Stephen Moss on a cult author back on the shelves



**GEORGE STEINER:** A Glastonbury Romance is 'the only novel produced by an English writer that can fairly be compared with the fictions of Tolstoy and Dostoevsky'



**EDITH SITWELL:** I suppose that the Messrs Powys were the first writers who experimented in deliberately boring their readers'



John Cowper Powys... literary polymath whose supernatural themes are gathering widespread approval in America

## US revives 'forgotten' novelist's reputation

THE fluctuating reputation of the novelist John Cowper Powys has been revived by an American publisher's re-issue of *A Glastonbury Romance*, one of his most acclaimed novels, and, at present, a bestseller at the book chain Waterstone's.

The novel has sparked a fresh wave of interest in the controversial Powys, who has been described as "one of the great puzzles of 20th century literature". Born in 1872, into a writing dynasty, Powys was a polymath who wrote novels, criticism, essays, poetry and plays, besides lecturing in the United States.

A *Glastonbury Romance* is

a novel combining folk lore and the supernatural, probing the spiritual life of Glastonbury and a mythical tradition stretching back to the Graal. It weaves the historical and legendary in a favourite theme of self-fulfilment. The conflicts are resolved rather melodramatically.

Powys has always had powerful advocates, who praise his epic ambition and florid, anti-naturalistic style. But they have never quite secured his reputation, or kept his books in print. At present, none of his works is available from the main UK publishers. But, *A Glastonbury Romance* is being produced by the Overlook Press, based in New

York and owned by ex-Penguin head Peter Mayer. Its edition has been widely exported to the UK. In the UK, Picador published some titles in the 1980s, and Wolf Solent was in Penguin Classics, but all are now out of print. Penguin plans to re-issue *Wolf Solent* next year.

"Powys is an interesting author," said Waterstone's Mike Payne, "and there is a taste for quality, cult literature. His reputation has diminished, but not to extinction. Now he may be tapping the interest in mind, body, spirit books."

Tracy Carns, publishing director of the Overlook Press, said the response in the US to the re-issued book, which first appeared in 1932, had been "fantastic". The company plans to re-issue his novel *Weymouth Sands*. "I think if Powys is going to make the transition from cult to mainstream, now could be the time. His books deal with lots of millennial themes."

In November, Vintage in the US is re-publishing *Wolf Solent*, and the US agent for the Powys estate, Glen Hartley, said he hoped a new edition of Powys's autobiography would appear soon. At present, the only English-language edition is by the Colgate University Press in the US. Among UK publishers the author is neglected, despite

the efforts of the Powys Society, founded 30 years ago to support the work of John Cowper and his brothers, Theodore and Llewelyn. "It's a shame he's not better known," said the society's Stephen Powys Marks. "He is more widely available in France, Germany and Sweden than the UK. The brothers here [are thought] slightly eccentric. But they're all strong literary characters."

The case for Theodore and Llewelyn is probably lost, but the jury is still out on John Cowper, as it has been since his death in 1963. The Dictionary of National Biography described his autobiography as an "astonishing masterpiece" and his characters conceived "with the compassion of a Dostoevsky".

## Soap dad reading to his baby helps to kick off Blunkett's national campaign for literacy

Rebecca Smithers  
Education Correspondent

**EASTENDERS** "hard man" Grant Mitchell will be shown in a new light as a softie dad reading books to his baby daughter, Courtney, in a new literacy storyline underpinning the Government's National Year of Reading.

Scriptwriters of the BBC soap are being asked to show its screen babies being entertained with books, reinforcing the £50 million drive to encourage parents, particularly fathers, to start reading to their children at an early age.

David Blunkett, Education and Employment Secretary, will be joined today by EastEnders stars to launch the National Year of Reading in the Queen Vic pub on the set. He will meet the actors who play Jimmy and Sarah — the illiterate former prisoner and the A level student who, through her involvement with the church, is teaching him to read and write.

Matthew Robinson, executive producer of EastEnders, confirmed yesterday that he was encouraging scriptwriters to have screen parents read to their babies. The BBC was "very supportive" of the campaign.

An advertising campaign beginning on TV tonight features "ordinary dads" reading to their children. The aim is to boost reading among all age groups. Local authorities will run projects such as one in Toxteth, Liverpool, encouraging older men to read "books that changed the world".

The private sector will be involved through sponsorship and extensive use of a "Read Me" logo. Retail chains supporting the scheme include WH Smith and Sainsbury's. The latter will today announce a £6 million national Bookstart programme to mark the

millennium, in partnership with the educational charity Book Trust. Bookstart will give away at least a million books from January. By 2000 every nine-month-old baby will have received a book. It began as a pilot project six years ago, when 300 families in Birmingham were given books at their babies' nine-month health checks. These children were shown to have clear advantages in literacy and numeracy when they started primary school.

Other soap operas have introduced literacy topics. Brookside's founder, Phil Redmond, is expected to give further details of a new storyline today when he supports the reading campaign alongside Mr Blunkett. Formerly "bad boy" Jimmy Corkhill's new career as a teacher at Brookside comprehensive is already helping to focus on classroom activities and topical education themes.

In Coronation Street, Tanya Battersby left home after a hush-up when her family discovered that she had gone to former teacher Ken Barlow for extra reading and writing lessons.

## News in brief

### Police hunt sisters and foster parents

POLICE and social services officials were last night still searching for sisters Jade Bennett, four, and Hannah, three, who have been missing with their foster parents since early on Monday. Police say they are concerned for their welfare.

### Attack leaves driver critical

A FATHER-of-two was in critical condition in hospital yesterday after his lorry was hit by a stone believed to have been thrown by animal rights protesters.

### Surgeon's 'host of blunders'

A CONSULTANT gynaecologist accused of a catalogue of blunders during a bleeding patient after seriously damaging her bladder during an operation, the General Medical Council heard yesterday.

### Man arrested in murder hunt

DETECTIVES investigating the murder of Thomas Marshall, 12, who was killed after cycling near his Norfolk home a year ago, have arrested a 50-year-old man. Thomas was last seen alive as he set off to see a friend three miles from his home in Happisburgh.

### Over-50s join exotic jet set

OLDER holidaymakers take more trips abroad and jet off to more exotic destinations than their younger counterparts, according to research published yesterday.

### Paedophile's court victory

A DANGEROUS paedophile yesterday won a High Court challenge against the legality of a tribunal's decision to keep him in hospital. Trevor Holland, who has a psychiatric disorder and is detained under section 37 of the Mental Health Act, will now have his application for release reconsidered, after the North Thames Mental Health Review Tribunal conceded there was "no inadequacy of reasons" in the decision last January.



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# Liberal whites find little room in rainbow nation

Disenchantment is spreading as a new apartheid squeezes out non-black South Africans, writes **David Beresford** in Johannesburg

**S**OUTH AFRICA can achieve miracles, ruefully observed one of the country's constitutional court judges, Albie Sachs, recently. "But it cannot achieve the achievable."

Mr Sachs, who lost an arm when his car was bombed by the South African security forces during the anti-apartheid struggle, was speaking at a farewell function for a Johannesburg academic.

The cynical note was all the more striking because it came from a judge whose colleagues regard him as an unrehabilitated romantic. But then it was not just any ac-

South Africa's predominantly white elite are going through another of their periodic bouts of pessimism about the future of the country and their role — or lack of one — in it. A poll, published at the weekend, showed that 74 per cent of people with skilled jobs are longing to emigrate.

In the old South Africa a significant number of people of darker hues accepted and welcomed me because of my anti-apartheid views, one white liberal wrote in a Johannesburg newspaper. "In the new South Africa I am treated with contempt and hatred, for no other reason than that I have a white skin."

isation of South Africa by Bishop Desmond Tutu as a "rainbow nation", she said. "What kind of rainbow is it where every colour is acceptable, as long as it is black?"

Support for her scepticism was to be found in the same edition of the newspaper, in a lengthy article by Nkosinathi Biko, the son of Steve Biko. Writing on the 21st anniversary of his father's murder in police detention, Mr Biko observed of the term "rainbow": "The rainbow is preceded by such pain and suffering."

The term "rainbow nation" was similarly misused, he said. "The colours of the rainbow are harmoniously juxtaposed and such harmony can hardly be found between the peoples of South Africa."

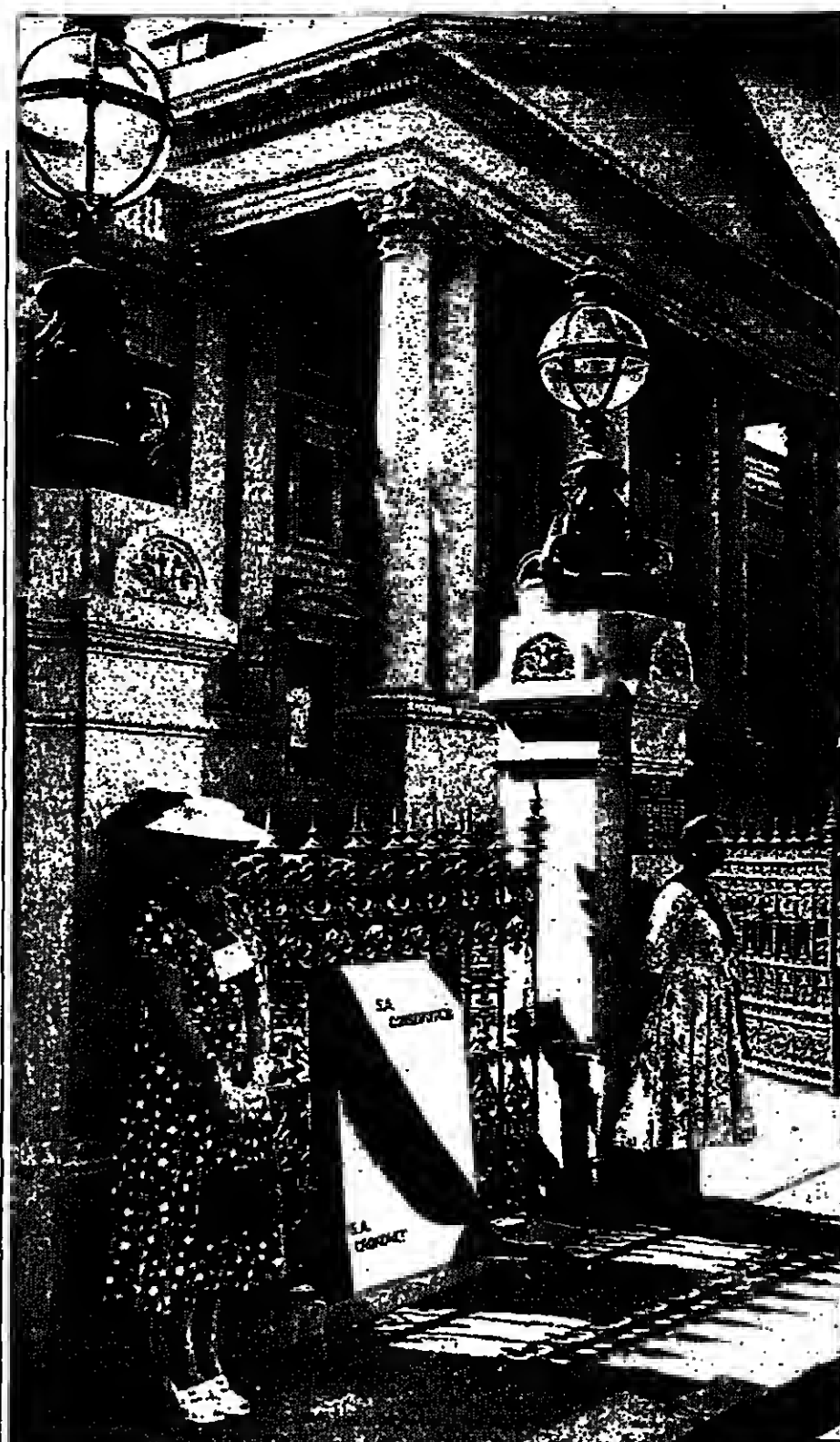
The hostility of black South Africans towards their former "enemies" in the liberal community has also manifested itself in a succession of attacks on the English language press. The Guardian's sister newspaper in Johannesburg, the Mail & Guardian, has been a consistent target, seemingly as a result of articles exposing corruption in the government.

Early this year, after it disclosed the alleged shady past of the African National Congress premier of Gauteng, the richest province, which incorporates the Witwatersrand industrial triangle, the newspaper was subjected to a broadside of racial invective.

In an editorial, it protested: "It is completely irrelevant to us that the premier of Gauteng is a black man. But it matters to us very much that he seems to be a crook."

The distinction went unrecognised in some quarters, however. The "Black Lawyers' Association" and the "Association of Black Accountants of South Africa" lodged a formal complaint against the newspaper with the country's human rights committee, charging it with "subliminal racism".

They claimed that the majority of the newspaper's exponents were of corruption among blacks, and declared this often left "very little room for these individuals to have any sense of dignity" and was "violating the rights of black people to equality".



Former members of the Black Sash — those gallant white women who fought a lonely battle against apartheid (above), complain that skin colour is still all-important

A cynical note was sounded by veteran anti-apartheid campaigner Albie Sachs, till now regarded as an eternal romantic by his fellow judges in South Africa's constitutional court



democratic Mr Sachs was saying farewell to the "new" South Africa, it seems, does not have room for Professor John Dugard.

Prof Dugard, who has left to take up a post at Leiden University in the Netherlands, is a world authority on international law, admired in liberal circles for his opposition to apartheid.

One of the architects of the progressive new constitution, his decision to leave South Africa was taken after he was passed over for an expected appointment to a judicial post, seemingly because of his skin colour.

The author was Mandi Smallhorne, a member of the Black Sash — that gallant band of white women who engaged in a famous crusade against National Party rule during the dark days of apartheid.

Referring to the character-

## 'Grey Japan' confronts a demographic timebomb

Jonathan Watts in Tokyo

**J**APAN'S annual Respect for the Elderly Day passed in a mixed mood of celebration and trepidation as new figures confirmed that its population is ageing faster than any other country.

The number aged 65 or older stands at a record 20.49 million, having doubled in less than 20 years. The number of centenarians has passed 10,000 for the first time, having risen by more than 30 per cent in two years.

As is customary on this national holiday, newcomers to the 100 club receive a silver cup, a certificate signed by the prime minister, Keizo Obuchi, and up to 1 million yen (\$4,530) from their local authority.

Such gifts, which are also given in smaller amounts to anyone aged over 77, are a way for the community to honour its elder citizens and express pride in having the world's longest average lifespan. "Thanks to high living standards and a low-fat diet, Japanese women can expect to live for 83 years, and men 77."

The problem is Japan also has the lowest birthrate, which means it is greying far more rapidly than any other country. Last year the number of children for the first time, and by 2015 one in four of the population will be aged 65 or older.

This demographic time bomb is casting a shadow over the economy. To pay for the expected increase in welfare and medical costs, the consumption-tax rate was increased last year, tilting Japan into recession and ultimately costing the then prime minister, Ryutaro Hashimoto, his job.

The new government stresses that consumption is the key to recovery, but the Japanese are choosing to save, because of uncertainty about the future.

Officials have been instructed to revamp the welfare and pension systems, but they concede that they are entering uncharted waters. "The government

faces enormous challenges and no one knows for sure what is the right direction," said Eiichi Seki, a deputy director at the health and welfare ministry.

Since tax is now a dirty word, most new policies are aimed at covering costs in other ways. Medical charges have been raised, a new welfare premium is to be introduced, pensions may be cut and the retirement age is likely to be raised.

This has infuriated many middle-aged and elderly people, whose standards of living have been hit by the government's decision to keep interest rates at record low levels, which means a pitiful return on savings.

"Our generation helped to rebuild Japan after the war, yet now we are being told that we are not entitled

"The government faces enormous challenges and no one knows what is the right direction"

to the lifestyle that we worked so hard for," said Shinichi Ishikawa, an executive of the Pensioners' Union.

Despite the union's complaints, the elderly enjoy a reasonable standard of living on an average monthly pension of \$1,040.

Among the better-off are residents of the state-run Urayasu Casa de Kanpo old people's home, near Tokyo.

The very fact that they are in a home, however, shows how attitudes have changed. Only 55 per cent of elderly people now live with their families, compared to 80 per cent 20 years ago.

"It's probably inevitable, given the pace of modern life, but people just don't have as much time for the elderly these days," said Yoshiyuki Naemura, the deputy manager of Casa de Kanpo. "Unless children grow up living with their grandparents, how can they truly learn to respect them."

## Uneasy power pact ahead for Sweden

Inflation has almost disappeared, unemployment is around 7 per cent and the budget is balanced. Yet the opinion polls suggest that his **SDP** could sink to 35 per cent on Sunday, 10 points less than in 1994.

The Social Democrats will need the help of Eurosceptics to stay in power, **Martin Walker** reports from Stockholm

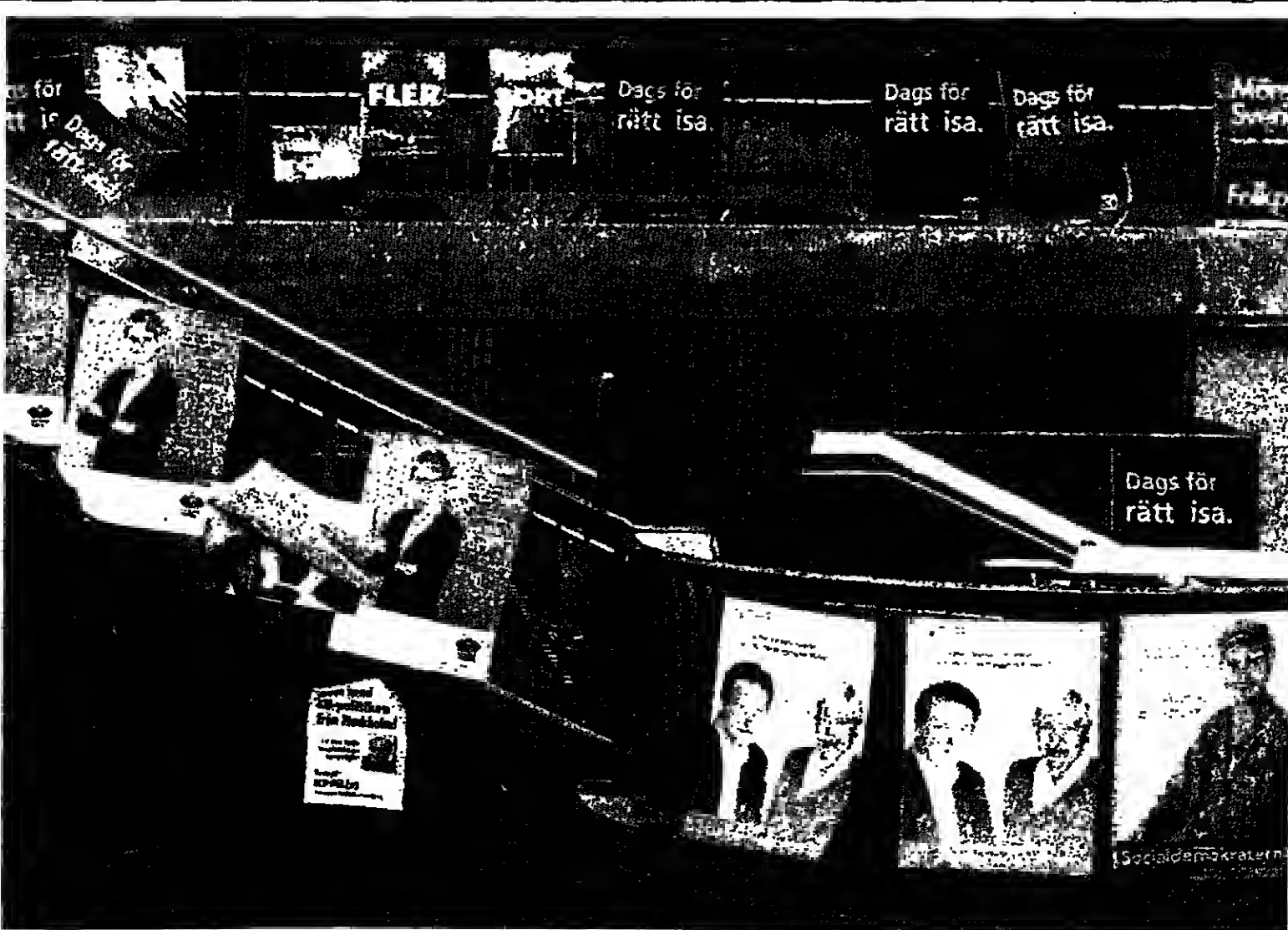
**A** VIDEO delivered to more than 100,000 Swedish first-time voters began with a romantic bedroom scene in which a pair of lovers talk intimately about their "first time". It ends with the words: "Greetings from the Social Democrats. Go out and vote on September 20."

It is a desperate effort to persuade people to go out and vote. But polls show that disenchanted Swedes are unlikely to match their traditional 90 per cent turn-out when they vote on Sunday, when the Social Democrats (SDP) are likely to make their worst showing since 1988.

The prime minister, Goran Persson, is still expected to win but to depend on Eurosceptic support. He could turn to the old Communists, renamed the Left Party, or to an assortment of smaller centrist groups.

All the putative partners in the coalition are suspicious of Europe and firmly oppose the single currency. The Left and the Greens both want to leave Europe.

So confident of victory is Mr Persson that he is scheduled to fly to New York only hours after the polls close on Sunday for a day-long seminar with Bill Clinton and Tony Blair on their shared commitment to a "third way" in politics.



A woman passes posters for Sweden's general election, which the Social Democrats seem set to win

He will return to negotiate a complex coalition which could result in Sweden's "third way" embracing the old Communists and their demand for 100,000 new public sector jobs and a 35-hour working week.

After inheriting the country's economic disaster of the early 1990s, when unemployment rose to 13 per cent and interest rates shot to 500 per cent overnight during the 1992 currency crisis, Mr Persson has cut back the welfare state and restored the economy to health.

Inflation has now almost disappeared, unemployment is around 7 per cent and the budget is balanced. Yet the latest opinion polls suggest that his SDP could sink to 35 per cent on Sunday, 10 points less than its share of

the vote in the 1994 election.

The conservative Moderates, led by the former prime minister Carl Bildt, seem unlikely to get much more than the 23 per cent of the vote they secured four years ago.

The Left has gained most. At the last election leftwing parties won 5 per cent, and opinion polls say they will achieve closer to 13-14 per cent this time.

This is partly due to the fact that disgruntled public-sector workers and women furious at social-service cuts have swung to the former Communists in huge numbers, hugely swelling their support.

The plight of the welfare state sounds dreadfully familiar to British ears: state schools are in crisis, their teachers demanding pay increases, and hospitals have year-long wait-

ing lists for operations such as hip replacement.

The other success story of the campaign has been the Christian Democrats, a traditional group which originated in the Pentecostal Church and campaigns for women to give up work to care for their children. The polls give them more than 10 per cent, up from 5 per cent last time.

The Greens are the wild card. They are in danger of falling below the 4 per cent threshold required to win parliamentary seats. If they do, Mr Persson may be unable to form a majority with just the support of the Left.

And he remains suspicious of what the Left's programme would do to the credibility of the national currency.

"I have been to Wall Street and seen the leering smiles of

the 25-year-olds who decide whether to attack or support our Swedish krona," he said recently of his time as finance minister during the economic crisis. "I will not go through that again."

The collapse of the Greens may be Mr Bildt's only hope of returning as prime minister, forming a coalition of centrists and conservatives which would include strong opponents of his plan to join the single currency and Nato.

In a televised debate on Monday night, he was widely believed to have performed better than Mr Persson, who used the old SDP rhetoric of class politics and the greed of the rich for tax cuts to try to win back voters. This may have backfired: even friendly trade union leaders said he was short on substance.

Carl Bildt is a tall, austere and imposing intellectual whom 53 per cent of voters would like to be prime minister if it were not for his Europhile politics and his party. His difficult stint as the EU's special envoy in the Balkans, the job he took after losing the 1994 election, seems to have humanised him.

But the Europhile dream that drew him into politics remains elusive among the once wealthy Swedes who have seen their per capita GDP fall into the ranks of poorer EU countries.

No wonder there is nostalgia for the good old days of the model welfare state of the Social Democrats' ascendancy. But not even Goran Persson can bring that back, so his party offers soft porn videos instead.

## West stays silent on Bosnia poll verdict 'upset'

Jonathan Steele

**W**ESTERN officials supervising Bosnia's general election abruptly postponed announcing the first results yesterday, amid suspicion that hardline nationalists had done unexpectedly well.

"They're in panic. They never thought it would come out like this," said an international analyst in Sarajevo who has access to the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe, which has been in charge of the three elections in Bosnia since the Dayton Agreement of 1995.

At a news conference to report the first, partial results yesterday, Robert Barry, the United States state department official leading the OSCE's Bosnia mission, said: "The only figures that count are figures that are complete and integrated. I have taken the decision that partial results are not in the interest of establishing the legitimacy of the outcome of the vote."

He added that the OSCE did not yet have coherent information on voting trends. "And I don't know when we will."

OSCE officials were reported to be appalled, however, that the results from almost half the polling stations in the Serb part of Bosnia, Republika Srpska — showed the leader of the Radical Party, Nikola Poplasen, narrowly ahead of the Western-supported Biljana Plavcic.

Officials fear that the Radicals, in alliance with the hardline nationalists of the Serbian Democratic Party (SDS), may gain control of the parliament, allowing them to form the next government.

The OSCE is hoping that absentee ballots from the thousands of voters living in the Bosnian-Croat Federation or abroad may alter the trend. The SDS, once led by the indicted war criminal Radovan Karadzic, has been in decline.

But instead of backing the moderates, voters appear to have gone the other way — the Radical Party is allied to the neo-fascist Vojislav Seselj, now Serbia's deputy prime minister, who led paramilitaries during Bosnia's ethnic cleansing.

Mrs Plavcic's defeat would be a major blow to the West.



27/09/1998

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The bodies of six Iranian diplomats killed in northern Afghanistan were returned yesterday but the war of words continues as both Iran and the Taliban raise the temperature even further by preparing for a border conflict



Revolutionary Guards raise their fists in support of Ayatollah Khamenei, left, calls on the armed forces to be ready if action is taken against the Taliban

PHOTOGRAPHS: ATTA KENARE

## Tehran puts army on war footing

Jim Muir in Tehran

**A**S TENSION between Tehran and Afghanistan's Taliban militia increased yesterday, the Iranian supreme leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, called on the armed forces and officials to be ready to respond immediately to any orders that might be given to deal with the crisis.

He told senior commanders from the Revolutionary Guards Corps, which has 70,000 troops near the Afghan border: "All officials and those in charge of the country's affairs, including the armed forces, must be ready for the speedy, timely and decisive implementation of whatever decisions the senior political and security authorities may deem necessary and right for the country."

In Iran's bluntest threat so far of direct intervention to help Afghanistan's routed opposition, the corps said in a statement: "We and the host/militant volunteers are ready to help the oppressed, meek people of Afghanistan."

"The Taliban criminals and their backers should know that Iran's Revolutionary Guards are ready to take revenge by revolutionary force on behalf of the oppressed."

The Taliban also fuelled the tension. "Iran must know that if the soil of Afghanistan is attacked, we will target Iranian

cities and the entire responsibility will rest with Iranian authorities," a spokesman, Waki Ahmed, said.

He added: "We do not want a war with Iran, but if Iran attacks we will take all possible necessary measures." He said border positions had been reinforced to counter Iran's military build-up.

A few hours before the statements from Tehran, the bodies of six Iranian diplomats and a journalist killed by the Taliban last month when they captured the northern city of Mazar-i-Sharif from the opposition were returned to Iran's capital.

President Mohammed Khatami, other government leaders and most of the diplomatic corps turned out to receive the bodies at the airport. The flag-draped coffins were taken from a military transport plane by a guard of honour and carried to Mr Khatami to be reviewed.

But the stately decorum was broken when relatives of the seven men pushed through a security cordon and mobbed the president, chanting "Khatami, revenge!" and "Death to the Taliban!"

The Taliban returned the bodies shortly after scoring another victory in Afghanistan, driving the Iranian-backed Hizbe Wahadat faction out of its stronghold in the central town of Bamian. The faction is drawn from the Shi'ite Muslim minority.

Bamian was attacked de-

spite military exercises on the border by the Revolutionary Guards and an announcement on Saturday that 200,000 regular troops would soon be sent there for Iran's biggest-ever war games.

The fall of Bamian prompted Ayatollah Khamenei to warn that the region was on the brink of a conflagration which could only be averted if the Taliban abandoned their current course.

Despite the rhetoric, there is little sense in Tehran of a country about to plunge into war — and little appetite for it on the part of ordinary Iranians. Memories of the disastrous eight-year conflict with Iraq, which ended in 1988, are still strong, and most Iranians are more concerned with surviving the current economic slump.

Western diplomats said the latest Iranian warning came as the United Nations Security Council was preparing to meet to discuss the situation in Afghanistan. Iran is pressing the UN to take strong action to halt Taliban excesses.

Tension is undoubtedly high and the risk of conflict is real. But the impression that Iran's more incendiary statements might be intended largely for external consumption was reinforced by the fact that Ayatollah Khamenei's statement yesterday was barely mentioned in Tehran Radio's news bulletins.

Jim Muir is the BBC's Middle East correspondent

## Defiant Taliban say they are ready for the counter-attack

Richard Galpin in Kabul

**T**HE Taliban militia in Afghanistan are consolidating their hold on the country after capturing the last big town controlled by the opposition alliance, and are advancing towards the Panjshir valley — the one remaining opposition stronghold and the base of the renowned Commander Ahmad Shah Massoud.

Taliban troops stormed the capital of the central province of Bamian at the weekend after apparently encountering little resistance from the Iranian-backed opposition faction Hizbe Wahadat, whose headquarters were in the town.

Independent sources confirmed the fall of Bamian town, saying that the fighting had not been heavy and they did not expect casu-

alty figures to be high. "The atmosphere in the town is reasonably calm," a source said, "and so far we have not heard any reports of any reprisals by the Taliban against the minority Shi'ite population which dominates the area."

Earlier, Amnesty International warned that tens of thousands of Shi'ites in Bamian province were in danger of "deliberate and arbitrary" killing by the advancing Taliban forces, who are predominantly Sunni Muslims.

Amnesty called for immediate action "to prevent a massacre similar to the death of thousands of civilians following the takeover of Mazar-i-Sharif on August 8."

The Taliban denied that there had been any systematic killing in Mazar-i-Sharif. Their supreme leader, Mullah Mohammed Omar, has issued orders to his

troops to ensure the safety of all civilians and prisoners-of-war captured during the offensive against Bamian, the heartland of the Shi'ite population in Afghanistan. His orders have been broadcast repeatedly on the Taliban's Radio Shariat.

In contrast to their continued refusal to allow international aid agencies — apart from the International Red Cross — or journalists to visit Mazar-i-Sharif, Taliban leaders have called on the United Nations and foreign aid agencies to send humanitarian assistance to the population of Bamian as soon as possible.

The ministry of foreign affairs said: "Bamian province has been conquered and peace and security maintained and at present the people of the province are in urgent need of humanitarian assistance."

The Taliban offensive, which began in northern Afghanistan in July and has decimated the opposition forces, continues unabated, despite increasingly bellicose statements from neighbouring Iran, which has massed a huge military force along the border and is threatening imminent action against the Taliban.

It is expected that up to 250,000 troops backed by tanks, heavy artillery and attack aircraft will soon be standing by just a few miles from Afghan soil.

Relations between the two countries have been tense since 10 Iranian diplomats and a journalist working for the official news agency, Iran disappeared after the fall of Mazar-i-Sharif.

On Thursday the Taliban finally admitted that the Iranians had been killed by their troops. But they said the troops had not been acting under orders, and refused to arrest anyone.

Taliban leaders said the Iranians were not diplomats but intelligence officials working with the Afghan opposition. After the bodies of seven of the diplomats were returned to Iran on Monday night, Tehran vowed to avenge their deaths and announced that it was putting its troops on full alert "for the speedy implement-

ation of whatever decisions the authorities deem necessary."

Iran's hostility towards the Taliban is deep and long-standing. It regards the Taliban militia as anti-Iranian, anti-Shia and a creation of Pakistan, Saudi Arabia and the United States.

Ever since the Taliban emerged as a force in 1994, Iran has provided arms and money to the alliance of Afghan opposition parties to help them cut the Taliban down to size.

But the policy has failed and, with their recent military successes, the Taliban militia have extended their control over more than 90 per cent of the country.

The question is whether Iran will sit and watch from the sidelines as its clients in Afghanistan are crushed, or whether it will take the huge risks involved in a direct military intervention.

Whatever it decides, the Taliban say they are ready. Thousands of troops have been moved to the border area in western Afghanistan and local civilians have been armed.

"The Taliban army and all Afghans are prepared for any attack by Iran," Waki Ahmed Muntawil, a senior Taliban spokesman, said as the offensive against the opposition force continued.

**JERWOOD FASHION PRIZE**

Who will be the next influential British designer?

The Jerwood Fashion Prize aims to find out.

If you're 21-35 and want to enter, send an A4 C&F to Jerwood Fashion Prize, PO Box 5559, Wellington WHX 429.

Judges include: Sally Strassburg, Amanda Harman, Betty Jackson, Alexander McQueen.

Guardian LIBERTY marie claire

## Iraqis warned not to carry out Unscow threat

Jon Black  
Diplomatic Editor

**I**RAQ was warned last night not to carry out its threat to stop co-operating with United Nations weapons inspectors as the United States and Britain brace themselves for a new crisis in the Gulf.

Insisting that Washington was not distracted by President Bill Clinton's domestic problems, US officials urged Saddam Hussein not to raise the stakes by accepting the Iraqi parliament's call to suspend the work of the UN Special Commission, Unscow.

There is a growing fear that he may bring the latest confrontation to boiling point next week when world leaders meet in the UN General Assembly in New York.

President Saddam convenes his Revolutionary Command Council tomorrow to consider his options. Washington and London hope that diplomacy will save them from having to use force, for which they have little appetite and no international support.

The prospects for a peaceful outcome rest with Kofi Annan, the UN secretary-general, who promised a "comprehensive review" of UN policy on Iraq after the Security Council last week suspended its reviews of the crippling economic sanctions imposed after the 1990 invasion of Kuwait.

Unscow has to verify that Iraq has eliminated all its nuclear, chemical and biological weapons before sanctions can be eased or lifted. Without the reviews, normally conducted

every 60 days, no change is possible.

Iraq successfully exploited international divisions and sanctions fatigue in early August when it announced that it would stop co-operating with Unscow unless it was restructured to reduce what it called excessive US influence.

Unscow's long-term monitoring has continued but there have been no inspections since then, and yesterday officials in New York described the mood of Unscow workers as "dejected".

Scott Ritter, a former inspector, accused the US and Britain of blocking certain inspections of weapon sites and weakening their resolve to confront Baghdad. Both insist that they are committed to the full implementation of the UN resolutions and that any changes have been tactical.

"If Saddam wants to raise the stakes there are possibilities on both sides of the Atlantic for a change of tactics," one diplomat warned.

On Monday the US said it would ask the Security Council to take further steps against Iraq if Baghdad suspended Unscow activities.

Iraq was high on the agenda for talks in London yesterday between the Prime Minister, Tony Blair, and Crown Prince Abdullah, heir to the Saudi throne.

Hamed Yousef Humadi, a key adviser to President Saddam, said in an article published by the official al-Qadisiya newspaper yesterday that there was "no option for Iraq but to freeze... cooperation with Unscow".

## Black believers keep faith with Clinton project

Julian Borger  
in Washington

**A** POSTER on the notice-board in the Potomac Gardens housing estate declares: "I believe in the sun, even when it doesn't shine. I believe in love even if I don't find it. I believe in God, even though I do not see Him."

In Precinct 91 — deep in Washington's high-crime, mainly black south-west, they also believe in William Jefferson Clinton, even though he was unfaithful and lied about it.

Yvonne Kelly, who takes blood samples at a nearby DC General Hospital, has been bursting to explain to someone the foundations of her faith.

"He didn't kill no one. He didn't break into any place. He didn't steal no money. He made a mistake," she said.

"It took Ken Starr four and a half years and \$45 million to tell me where Clinton puts his penis. There's a whole lot of things they could have spent the money on down here."

In Precinct 91, where the money goes is felt as immediately and intensely as the hot humid weather. And for the last few years under Mr Clinton's watch, more money has been coming to the south side.

"There used to be people sleeping on the grass here and lying on the grates," said Ruth Nixon, Mrs Kelly's neighbour. "And there used to be shooting every

night — by all the drug dealers hanging on the corners. Now there's much less. There's more police around. They moved them into the neighbourhood."

"It's Clinton that put all the police around the country. He put in the school lunch programmes like at this school here", Mrs Kelly added, pointing to the nearby Catharine Watkins Elementary School. "And when they were going to close down the hospital where I work, he stopped them."

Black America is staying loyal to Mr Clinton, and Washington, which is two-thirds African-American, is his heartland. In Congress members of the black caucus were almost alone in trying to stop publication of the Starr Report.

The man most likely to be Washington's next mayor, Anthony Williams, arrived at the Watkins School on a campaign visit for yesterday's mayoral primaries. Mr Williams, a Democrat, said the Starr Report had not even unsettled his campaign. "I haven't heard one question about it — not one in the whole campaign."

At the entrance to the Potomac Gardens flats, a small crowd who had come to vote gathered to voice pro-Clinton sentiments as they felt were being ignored in the white-owned Washington press.

Will Hill, aged 50, an office worker, said: "Reagan lied to the people and he got an airport named after him now."

**Oxfam Flood Appeal**

## EMERGENCY

Right now in Bangladesh 20 million people face malnutrition and fatal diseases.

Floods have engulfed three-quarters of the country, ravaging nearly 30,000 villages, destroying crops, and making millions of people homeless. People have no clean drinking water or sanitation, and are vulnerable to potentially fatal water-borne diseases.

Your gift can help save lives

Oxfam is helping people to move to shelters, where they are safe from the floods. We are providing food, clean drinking water, and medicines.

But we need more money urgently. There will be no harvest this Autumn, and starvation is a real threat. The people of South Asia need your help now. Just £25 will buy food for 16 people for three weeks.

Please, send your gift to the  
**Oxfam Flood Appeal**  
Oxfam, Room BA10, FREEPOST, Oxford OX2 7BR

Yes, I want to help save lives. Here is my gift of:

£25 ☐ £50 ☐ £100 ☐ £250 ☐ £

Mr, Mrs, Miss, Ms

Address

Postcode

Please send to: Oxfam, Room BA10, FREEPOST, Oxford OX2 7BR

Flood Appeal Line **01865 313131**

**OXFAM**



# Comment

## Diary

Matthew Norman

**WARNING:** It is not for nothing that I have banned readers under 25 from reading this column without a signed note from parents or legal guardians, and what follows is not for the squeamish. Ann Widdecombe, I'm talking to you. Stop reading now, and behave. It concerns a footnote from the Starr report which appears on some websites, but has been excised from the official Congress one, and is appended to the body of the text dealing with January 7. "Ms Lewinsky testified that during this bathroom encounter, she and the president kissed and he touched her bare breasts with his hands and his mouth. The president 'was talking about performing oral sex on me,' according to Ms Lewinsky. But she stopped him because she was menstruating, and he did not. Ms Lewinsky did perform oral sex on him (210)." And so to footnote 210. "210. Lewinsky 8/25/98. Depo. at 20. They engaged in oral-anal contact as well. 'An enchanting image. Who was doing it to the other (or whether it was mutual) is unclear. But this is precisely the sort of detail sure to play real good with the God-fearing Baptist folk—people like Bill himself, in fact—in the deep South."

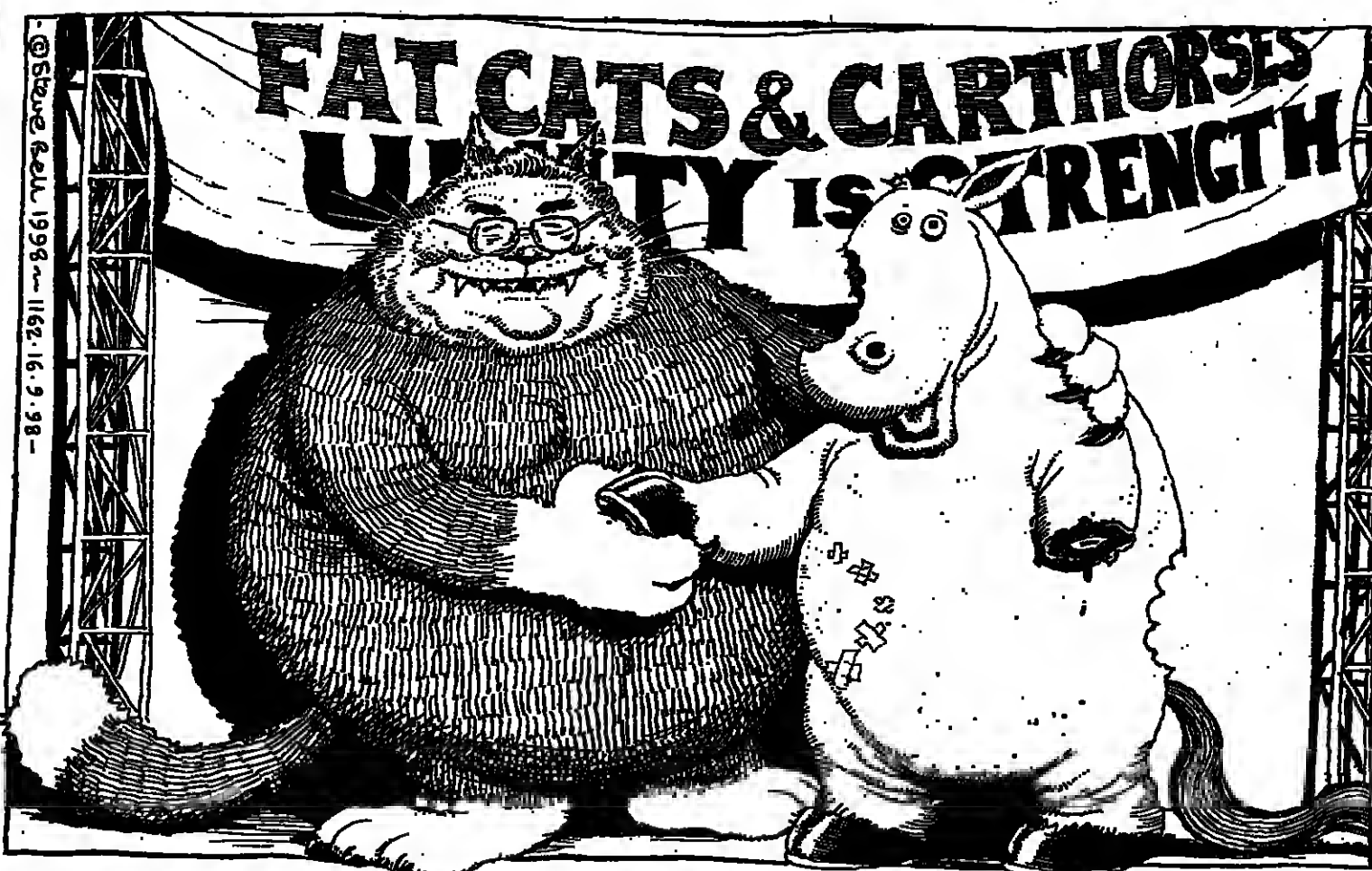
**MEANWHILE,** news of an unusually stern judgment on the president reaches the Diary. "Yes, the president should resign, he has lied to the American people time and time again and has betrayed their trust. He is no longer an effective leader. Since he has admitted guilt there is no reason to put the American people through an impeachment. He will serve absolutely no purpose in finishing out his term. The only possible solution is for this president to save dignity and resign." Strong words, but not new ones. They were spoken in 1874 about Richard Nixon, by a certain William J. Clinton.

**FOR** reasons of balance, the scheduled extract from All For Love by Rizla Rosie Boycott cannot appear in the same column as footnote 210. Nor is there room for Diary vicar the Rev Steve Chalke, who is busy preparing a sermon on the subject of repentance; and who consents to act as pastoral leader at the Diary's inaugural Prayer Breakfast. My apologies to both. They will return soon.

**ONE** Labour Conference highlight this year is an anti-PR meeting on September 28. Joining Dennis Skinner at the Imperial Hotel will be that other class warrior of the left, Helen Brinton. Elsewhere, alas, Helen continues to struggle. Yesterday, indeed, my so-called rival in the Times reported that the anti-old MP must attend an emergency meeting of the Peterborough Labour party on Friday, to discuss all the bad publicity... but hang on, I'm sure I read that somewhere before. Not to worry. Anyone at Friday's meeting who feels powerless to subjugate the urge to discuss it may call the Diary next Monday.

**A** voting for the NEC hot up. New Labour MPs find a deliciously cunning method of influencing voters. WH Forrester writes from Worcester enclosing the letter sent to him by local MP Mike Foster, tireless defender of the fox, who encourages him to vote for the slate of six candidates preferred by the leadership. Attached to this, meanwhile, is a yellow post-it note. "Don't forget to vote in the NEC ballot, reads the message, in a scrawly hand. "It's important. Closing date is 25th September." The signatory is Mr Tony Blair. "I don't know which bright spark thought this up," writes Mr Forrester, "but it insults our intelligence."

**IT** is cheering to learn that Boots intends to remove risqué images from film rolls to save clients' embarrassment. Let's hope more prurient developers take note. A few years ago, Julia Somerville was unfairly arrested after film of her child in the bath was handed in for development to a London branch of a chemists... what was it called? Ah yes, Boots.



## My pro-Americanism has been tested, but not to destruction

Jonathan Freedland in Washington



**ON** July the Fourth I celebrated Independence Day with a new experience. I published a book called *Bring Home the Revolution: How Britain can live the American dream*. It argues that despite all the junk we import from the United States, there are plenty of gems we are leaving behind. It suggests that the founding ideal of the US is a model Britain should aspire to, that America's political culture boasts greater democracy, liberty and even equality than our own. Better still, such a model is not alien to Britain: on the contrary, the American revolution was the fruit of British radical dreams we had let slip away. It was our revolution — and it is time to bring it back home.

On Friday night I was standing at the steps of the US Capitol, a few hours after the release of the first semi-pornographic work published by a government stationery office. The Starr Report was out and I was about to discuss it on Radio 5 Live. Through my headphones I could hear Brian Hayes, introducing me as the author of a book on how Britain might live the American dream. "Well, it's all a bit of a nightmare now isn't it?"

And that's the challenge Bill Clinton and his trouser-dropping habits have dumped on me. As one colleague put it, my thesis is being deconstruction-tested. Somehow I have to prove that a country which can be shaken to the core by the seamy tale of a man, a woman and a cigar, has nevertheless set a useful example to the world.

Of course, after 18 years of Conservative government and significant reforms to industrial relations law, during which time union membership fell by two-fifths, the unions are a very different force. The "new unionism" stresses the benefits to be gained from a partnership with employers, while union members are increasingly being offered a wide range of services and benefits.

The unions have changed and so has their relationship with Labour. Understandably and perhaps rightly, Labour has wanted to modernise its links with the unions, establishing a better balance in its relationships with both sides of industry. New Labour has bent over backwards to be seen to be friendly to the business community, by stressing some of the goals which all share, such as securing a good economic performance.

Yet as this week is showing the tensions are there. Overriding everything is the economic policy. The Government's economic policy is based on the belief that unemployment is now too low and needs to rise by up to 500,000 if inflationary pressure is to be contained. This is being achieved through high interest rates, and a high exchange rate, which hits manufacturing particularly hard. The Government also wants to hold down public sector pay as part of its anti-inflationary strategy. This means that the squeeze is impacting on the two sectors where the unions are still at their strongest.

to teach us, the US has descended into a collective tragedy-comedy, part Richard Nixon, part Harold Robbins. Still, I can recover. For the Zippergate ordeal does not expose the American dream as a nightmare. On the contrary, the entire bizarre saga has highlighted some of the country's strengths. One is surprising. Liberal Brits like to disdain the Americans as puritanical Bible-bashers, too unsophisticated to close their eyes to a private relationship between a man and his mistress. They contrast the US response to Bill and Monica with France's admirable indulgence of François Mitterrand's long-term affair with the Mademoiselle X who bore him a child. America is a nation of prudes.

Wrong. The US electorate has been utterly Continental in its approach to its philandering president. It voted for Clinton not once, but twice — each time aware of his sexual appetites. Americans knew he'd fooled around with Genifer Flowers when they voted for him in 1992, and they believed he'd exposed himself to Paula Jones when they backed him again in 1996. In January 1998, when Monica's name first broke radar, Clinton's poll rating did not plunge as outrage swept a strait-laced America: it went up by 10 points. Even now he retains two-thirds support. America doesn't mind the sex — it's the lying it can't stand.

Next time you hear an anti-American smugly decry the shallow mentality of the US, just imagine the British reaction if Tony Blair had been caught doing a 21-year-old work experience girl in-

side Number 10: he'd have been out within a week. America is a much more forgiving country. Sometimes the habit verges on the absurd: witness televangelist Jimmy Swaggart's weeping apology for sinning with a prostitute (several Democrats believe Clinton would be in less trouble now if only he'd shown his own contrition with "a full Swaggart"). But America's willingness to give the fallen a second chance can be inspiringly humane.

Marion Barry, the mayor of Washington, DC, went to jail after he was caught smoking crack cocaine on camera. He came out of prison, ran for mayor again — and won. At his re-inauguration ceremony in 1995, Barry's voice rang out: "Amazing Grace! How sweet the sound, that saved a wretch like me." (Also Clinton's favourite hymn.)

**B**EST of all has been the quality of debate. Speeches on the House floor have been first-class and, while the British press was chasing rumours of a "second woman", the US media has immersed itself in matters of constitutional law and history. Television anchors are asking more questions about the 14th century British origins of "high crimes and misdemeanours" than they are about the White House pizza run.

Which brings us to America's most enduring jewel: the Constitution. The saga unfolding now is not a constitutional crisis: there's a procedure for it, written into that almost mathematically balanced document. The Founding Fathers thought of every-

thing. Lest a president be a victim of a narrowly partisan witch-hunt, he must be convicted by two-thirds of the senate — in other words, he cannot be impeached unless he has lost the support of his own party. He needs the condemnation of the House, too. It's all designed to ensure no US leader can be removed by the kind of overnight palace coup made easy by Britain's parliamentary system.

Congressmen tread warily in this territory, mindful that the president — uniquely — is the choice of the entire American people. To remove him is to overturn their decision: no small matter in a nation where the people, rather than the Crown or Parliament, is sovereign. That's why the House wants all the Starr evidence, including Clinton's videotaped testimony, made public: it believes nothing should be held back from the people. In contrast with Whitehall's cult of secrecy, Washington regards itself as a mere servant of the citizenry: the people as the boss, with a right to know what actions are taken in their name.

That goes for the president, too. For all the grandeur of his office, he is ultimately an employee of the nation. The US system allows him no deceptions: as Teddy Roosevelt said in 1904, "No man is above the law and no man is below it." Bill Clinton may be about to learn that lesson the hard way, paying for it with his career. The boss, with a right to know what actions are taken in their name.

Bring Home the Revolution is published by 4th Estate.

Blinded by science, Darwinians say monogamy is for wimps

## Birds do it, Bill does it

Polly Toynbee



**T**HE world is contemplating the puzzle of adultery. Right across the globe, among all kinds of cultures, it goes to the heart of human experience. The global alpha-male has been caught at it. Ecstasies stand-up fumblyings in a bathroom threaten to destroy the ruler of the universe and everyone wants to know why. Humbug, hypocrisy and hysteria abound. All the same, why did he do it?

A herd of socio-biologists and evolutionary theorists are stampeding about offering scientific explanations. It has to be, it's in the genes. Writing in the New Yorker recently, distinguished evolutionary psychologist Steven Pinker gave his view of the Clinton affair. "Most human drives have ancient Darwinian rationales." All men want a lot of women, but only powerful and rich men can get them. All through history power and sex have gone hand in hand. Emperors of Babylon, China, Egypt or the Aztecs all had thousands of breeding concubines, propagating the tyrant's selfish genes. Old fashioned historians thought concubines were just another perk of power, but modern Darwinians say pursuit of women is the entire purpose of power.

So, he writes about Clinton, "powerful male politicians may face temptations that most of their constituents do not". He adds that another primal force may also be at work: "Anyone who has what it takes to rise to the top of a profession — say, getting elected president — is likely to be a risktaker, a strategist and a moral utilitarian."

In other words, Clinton can't help it. None of us can help anything. First the Marxists, then the Freudians and now the Darwinians find a deterministic answer to everything that makes us human. (There seems to be a strong millennialist taste now for belief in outside forces that control us — tarot cards, astrology.) The Darwinian explanation for Clinton behaving badly is just one example of how this new science is creeping insidiously into our thought, offering too glib answers. It may be based on good science, but it's in danger of becoming a belief.

**S**TUFF far along this path and we enter dangerous realms. Searching for our origins as if they determine our own behaviour, we are in danger of missing the point of humanity altogether: we are not as other animals. For a start we are uniquely self-conscious. By a strange paradox, it's that very self-consciousness that makes us seek our lost, imaginary "human nature". It's like looking for Shangri-la or Atlantis.

In search of it, anthropologists examine tribes untouched by modern man, zoologists look at our animal cousins, while paleontologists dig up our ancestors to learn how we would behave if we only followed our true nature. The Darwinians conclude that we stopped in the Pleistocene age, two million years ago, as hunter-gatherers on the savannah. It was then, according to current theory, that the fatal die was cast. Man adapted to his environment, and, well, nothing much has happened to him since. That's it, basically. In terms of sex, which drives everything else, males were programmed to amass as many women as they can and women to seek the highest status male (or males), and defeat was the key to our success. Outwitting one another in mating strategy enlarged our brains and gave us dominion over the earth. So adultery and deceit is the footprint of our primal ancestor stamped upon our brain: that's Bill and Monica explained.

The zoologists, with a certain anthropomorphicism, are also busy detecting our sexual origins. Take the case of the showily monogamous swallows, swooping in and out of their apparently monogamous nests. They fooled the birdwatchers for years with a display of life-long faithfulness — only to be discovered bonking behind the ornithologists' hide: researchers found that a third of their offspring were the result of adulterous affairs. This secret behaviour of swallows, sparrows and others explains the secrecy and privacy of sex. And the highest-ranking birds are the most adulterous: Bill and Monica again.

Monogamy, according to Darwinians, is mainly for wimps. It's for the men who only hope to be held on to one mate. Most early societies were polygamous: a few males got a lot of sex and many got none. In monogamy, like socialism, everyone gets the same, (but as with socialism, it may turn out to be a law of diminishing returns).

These thinkers seem to envy animals: they know who they are, always behaving the same, generation after generation, following pre-determined patterns of behaviour, no worries. Humans don't know who they are, or what's "natural" to them. But I wouldn't choose the evolutionary biologists or the zoologists to find that answer. Good sociology, that unfashionable and despised discipline, can tell us far more about ourselves, with a lot less near-sightedness. For the Darwinian version of human nature is an inadequate thing.

Their explanation of Clinton is a good case in point. Primal alpha-male behaviour might do well in the savannah



Adultery as the foot print of our primal ancestor stamped on to our brain

but it has destroyed him in the Oval office. We are the most successful and adaptable species on earth, so how come we are still ruled by evolutionary urges that are positively dangerous to us?

Pure evolutionary theory offers a pretty bleak portrait of ourselves. Undoubtedly we are adulterous, murderous, jealous, selfish and so on, and maybe partly for the reasons they give. But their vision is paltry. It leaves out too much. Morality and free will are only the first casualties. But consider art. Or fun and pleasure. Sex these days has very little to do with procreation, and the last thing on earth Clinton was trying to do was to impregnate his concubine. What about fashion? Part of what makes us human is the thirst for the new, the itch of boredom, a prime motive for mischief or for progress. Or love, what of that? Or loneliness? All these are things we recognise as powerful motives for human behaviour. Not the Darwinians.

As to why Clinton did it, your guess about his character is as good as mine, but I think I would put the mating call of the savannah lowish on the list. In future this line of inquiry may come to look as eccentric as eugenics. Determinism that denies us much individuality may go out of fashion. Are we really chained to our past, all progress impossible?

Some ministers do not understand Treasury euphemisms. The agenda is raising unemployment

## Union blues

Peter Robinson

**T**HIS week a very impressive number of senior Labour ministers are giving speeches at the TUC conference. This would seem to indicate that the Government still believes that a productive relationship with the union movement is important. On the other hand, ministers are delivering messages, for example on the economy and on public sector pay, which are not going down at all well.

Of course, after 18 years of Conservative government and significant reforms to industrial relations law, during which time union membership fell by two-fifths, the unions are a very different force. The "new unionism" stresses the benefits to be gained from a partnership with employers, while union members are increasingly being offered a wide range of services and benefits.

The unions have changed and so has their relationship

with Labour. Understandably and perhaps rightly, Labour has wanted to modernise its links with the unions, establishing a better balance in its relationships with both sides of industry. New Labour has bent over backwards to be seen to be friendly to the business community, by stressing some of the goals which all share, such as securing a good economic performance.

Yet as this week is showing the tensions are there. Overriding everything is the economic policy. The Government's economic policy is based on the belief that unemployment is now too low and needs to rise by up to 500,000 if inflationary pressure is to be contained. This is being achieved through high interest rates, and a high exchange rate, which hits manufacturing particularly hard. The Government also wants to hold down public sector pay as part of its anti-inflationary strategy. This means that the squeeze is impacting on the two sectors where the unions are still at their strongest.

The unions do not like this agenda. At an intellectual level they simply disagree, as I do, with the macroeconomic orthodoxy which says unemployment has to go up to contain inflation. At the human level, they can see the gathering impact on their members. Government ministers are lining up to say that there will be no change in economic policy. Part of the problem is that I do not think some of these ministers really understand the Treasury's economic agenda, buried as it is in the euphemistic language of economics which is matched only by that of the Pentagon.

Does John Prescott know that the "period of below-trend growth" called for in Gordon Brown's Budget really means a period of rising unemployment and, if he did, would he be as angry as his union colleagues?

The continuation by this government of a tough stance on public sector pay looks unsustainable in the long run. Again it is not hard to sympathise with union observations that the Government's aspirations for the health service and education require a motivated public sector workforce whose pay is not each year falling further behind average earnings.

Possibly the most robust set of policies to have emerged so far from this government has been the measured re-regulation of the labour market drawn up by the Department for Trade and Industry. Despite union disappointment over the level of the proposed minimum wage, the "Fairness at Work" White Paper did live up to its billing in terms of striking the right balance between providing a minimum set of standards, without losing some of the advantages of the UK's relatively less regulated labour market.

However, there is still a lot of detail to be worked out and the new Secretary of State seems less keen than his predecessor on some features of the package and more willing to take into account business objections. So here too the potential for a future falling out between the Government and the unions exists.

This will all be played out against the backdrop of the rise in unemployment. In determining how the relationship between the unions and the Labour Government, it was always going to be the economy, stupid, which really counted.

Peter Robinson is senior economist at the Institute for Public Policy Research



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# The Guardian

Wednesday September 16 1998  
Edition Number 47284  
119 Farringdon Road, London EC1R 3ER  
Tel No: 0171-278 2332  
Fax No: 0171-837 4530  
E-mail: letters@guardian.co.uk  
Website: http://www.guardian.co.uk

**'When we are old and poor, sex is about the only free pleasure left'**  
John Richards, Letters

## A lifeline for the poor

But it needs commitment

A YEAR ago the Prime Minister described it as the most important innovation in government since Labour came to power: the establishment of the Social Exclusion Unit. Its remit was to tackle "the greatest social crisis of our times" — the millions of people who lack the means to participate in the economic, social, cultural and political life in Britain today. Yesterday it produced its third and most important report. It addresses the most daunting challenge on its agenda: the 4 million people living on the nation's 4,000 worst housing estates. It is a triumph for the team with a clear analysis, sensible pilot programme, and a coherent long-term strategy which offers poor neighbourhoods their best hope for years.

The poor have every reason to be wary. Eight different national programmes to rehabilitate Britain's most disadvantaged urban areas have been launched since 1969. Three decades on, deprivation is worse, social disadvantages even more acute and densely concentrated, and the gap between these communities and the comfortable majority even wider. Compared to three decades ago, the communities face an even harder row to make any headway upstream. Yesterday's report provides both the dry statistics — enormously higher rates of unemployment, crime and teenage pregnancies alongside enormously lower rates of literacy, numeracy and work skills — with a taste of what it is like to live on such estates: the dirt, needles, harassment and fear.

What went wrong? A mixture of social and economic change, misguided interventions, and government inaction. There was no national policy to deal with structural decline, too many solutions parachuted in from outside, too much emphasis on physical renewal and too little on social organisation. There was poor co-ordination — at local and national level — too many inflexible rules and even contradictory criteria between different but parallel programmes.

Will national programme number nine be any better? The complete blueprint has not yet been drawn up. Ministers have embarked on a 10 to 20-year programme. There will be 17 pilot areas this year in which regeneration ideas can be tested and new lessons learned. Some lessons have already been taken on board. There will be a new emphasis on locally led initiatives, new forms of co-ordination, and wider participation will be sought. Over the next three years the New Deal for Communities will provide 2800 million for local projects, the Sure Start programme £540 million for children's services, and the Single Regeneration Budget another £2 billion. Each of the 50 most deprived districts is being guaranteed a major regeneration programme.

The most fascinating innovation is the 18 new task forces, drawn from 10 Whitehall departments but including outside experts and community workers, each with a minister at its head "to tackle the missing bit of the jigsaw". Each will work on a specific issue ranging from attracting businesses, services and shops through to promoting community self-help. There is a buzz to the report and an emphatic endorsement from the Prime Minister at yesterday's launch of the New Deal in a deprived neighbourhood in Hackney successfully being regenerated. What are the doubts? First scale: 17 pilots (or 50 projects by 2002) leave 3,950 deprived

neighbourhoods still needing help. Second cost: Hackney's scheme alone is priced at \$97 million. Third delivery: there are no details how the local programmes will be delivered raising local council fears that ministers may be trying to bypass them. There are good, bad and indifferent local councils but they need to be involved, even if not necessarily in the lead. The main thrust is right. What remains to be confirmed is the long-term commitment.

## No retreat

Bosnia must keep Dayton rules

BOSNIA'S latest elections, the third since the Dayton agreement ended Europe's worst war for half a century, were always a potential threat. The risk was that over the last three years of peace the cautious effort by Western governments to weaken the country's hardline nationalists would backfire. As a result, the country would slip back into the clutches of men who prefer partition to the unitary state which the Dayton agreement proclaimed.

Although the results from last weekend's voting are far from complete, the picture which seems to be emerging is disappointing. In the Bosnian Serb entity, the so-called Republika Srpska, the Radical Party may have defeated the Western-supported President Biljana Plavšić. It could also be on the way to winning a parliamentary majority in coalition with nationalists from the stable of the indicted war criminal, Radovan Karadžić. The Bosnian Croat community has shown a similar tendency towards radicalisation. Voters supported the more reactionary of the two Croatian candidates for Bosnia's collective presidency. The apparent winner makes little secret of his desire

to turn western Bosnia into a Croatian enclave to which Muslim and Serb refugees will have little chance of returning.

If confirmed when the final results are known, today's trend may lead Western governments to despair of trying to restore a multi-ethnic Bosnia. There may be a temptation to withdraw the 32,000 foreign troops who have kept the peace in Bosnia since 1995 and abandon the huge investment the West has made in reconstruction. This would be a serious mistake. The imperative is to forge ahead. Regardless of which parties hold office in Bosnia, the Dayton principles remain in force. The West's mistake was to set too much store by holding elections in Bosnia long before the conditions were ripe. When almost half the electorate are refugees, you cannot have a democratic poll.

The West's administrators in Bosnia should do several things. Enforce the property laws which make it possible for refugees to get back their homes. Build up the multi-ethnic police force with greater speed, so that minorities have more security. Dismiss local officials who obstruct refugee return. The West allowed Bosnia's politicians too much power over the last three years. As a result the very nationalists who started the war were not challenged firmly. Now is the time to rectify the error. Go on with Dayton and do not retreat.

## Starr wars

Messaging is the medium

PEOPLE will dispute for years whether the Starr report should have been published so quickly on the Internet. There is certainly an argument that the report, as a product of representative democracy, should have

been left to the judiciary to mull over first. What isn't in dispute is that this was a seminal moment in the explosive history of the Internet — the largest act of simultaneous publishing in history. Millions around the world could read the indictment almost as soon as the President (and with scant concern for the electronic transmission of pornography). Subscribers to America Online, the biggest gateway to the Web, for the first time spent more than 10 million hours on line in a single day. AOL reckons that 750,000 full reports were downloaded on to subscribers' hard disks.

This reflects two of the great properties of the Net. One is to cut out the middle man and the other is that once one copy of a digitised product has been made, unlimited quantities can be delivered at no extra cost. (Earlier this century the reports would have been bundled up, stamped, conveyed on lorries to waiting ships before taking a week to arrive in Britain.) Consumers were able to read Starr's slant in full before journalists and TV commentators had themselves had time to filter it. The messaging is the medium. Small wonder the Wall Street Journal was yesterday moved to quote the Internet's spiritual godfather, Marshall McLuhan who coined the phrase "global village" as well as "the medium is the message". Some 34 years ago he said: "When information moves at the speed of signals in the central nervous system... the old patterns of psychic and social adjustment become irrelevant." We are only just beginning to understand what he meant. And the digital penny has yet to drop in Downing Street. Whitehall has moved swiftly to put official publications online and even allows live chat with ministers, but it hasn't started to exploit the huge enabling possibilities of using this exciting technology. What ever happened to open government?

## Letters to the Editor

### Third Way and the old way

IN the summary of the European centre-left (Pretty in pink, September 15) you failed to mention that social democratic parties are in government in both Italy and Luxembourg as well. The Italian PDS is the largest component of the Olive Tree coalition and a major player in the debate about the future of social democracy. The Socialist Party of Luxembourg is a junior coalition partner in that country's government. Both parties, as were all the other parties mentioned, members of the Party of European Socialists.

Nick Crook, PES Secretariat, Brussels.

SPECULATION about the "Third Way" dominated German political discussion in the late 1990s and 1990s. What we got was the Third Reich.

Des McConaghy, Liverpool.

DECCA Aikenhead tells us she knows what middle-aged married men think about the Lewinsky scandal (He told lies, September 12). As I have never asked her to put anything of mine into her mouth, will she please stop putting her words into mine?

Roger Moorhouse, Lancaster.

DAVINA Arkell writes (Letters, September 12) that the old way farmers treated their cattle after the war is very close to a woman's orgasm. I've never seen any sex manuals that recommend "chasing the cow with a stick to make her kick and arch her back", but I suppose it's worth a try.

Paul Seligman, Cardiff.

Please include a postal address, even on e-mailed letters, and a daytime telephone number.

## Viagra: the downside

IT WAS with some relief that I heard Frank Dobson announce that Viagra would not be available on NHS prescription at present (Report, September 15). In our practice of 10,000 patients, I estimate we would need to offer an additional 800 consultations per year if 25 per cent of men with impotence come forward for treatment. This is equivalent to an additional 62 surgery sessions — or 26 working days for one doctor.

In all the discussion of the cost of treatment no one has considered where this time will come from. Either doctors will have to work longer hours, adding to their stress, and further exacerbating the recruitment problems faced by general practice, or patients with other conditions will get less time and lower quality care.

Employing a locum might be an alternative if they were freely available, but this option would cost the practice £4,200. (This is based on the assumption that 2 million men suffer from impotence; monitoring the use of Viagra will require two, 10-minute consultations each year. The average GP surgery has 18 patients. BMA recommended pay rates for locums are currently £32 pounds per hour.)

Until these "costs" are included in the Government's

decision-making about the licensing of Viagra I will continue to advise my impotent patients but give thanks that most of them decide not to consult me because they do not relish the alternative treatments available. Dr Alan Hastings, Leicester.

FRANK Dobson's comments on Viagra and "infertility treatment for women" are misleading about half of NHS regions do not fund any IVF treatments, even though IVF is now a very routine procedure with excellent results. Of the regions which do fund IVF treatments, the availability depends on certain criteria related to the woman's age and whether there are previous children.

The criteria differ from region to region. It is usual that three attempts are funded — compared with no funding in other regions.

Infertility treatment is not just for women — it is for couples — for potential families. Erectile dysfunction is only rarely the cause of infertility. Low sperm count is an increasingly common male-related cause and can be successfully treated by an IVF-related treatment called ICSI (Intra-cytoplasmic sperm injection).

By all means examine the

funding for Viagra, Mr Dobson, but please sort out the inequalities, financial hardship and heartbreak experienced by infertile couples. We make many sacrifices to fund our own treatment and the huge fees over patients find the £25-210 per week for a couple of Viagra pills is a bitter pill for us to swallow. Christine Hardisty, Swindon.

NOT all women enjoy sex and many, even if married or living with a partner, only tolerate it until they have the family they desire. After that they discourage it until the man becomes, in his mind, impotent because the presence of his wife has no effect on him sexually. In such cases, if the GP prescribes Viagra, it might be sensible to prescribe a prostitute on the NHS too. JWB Greenwood, Bingley, W Yorkshire.

WHEN we are old and poor, sex is about the only free pleasure left. Frank Dobson is denying the comfort of sex to older people, and suffers from diabetes and prostate cancer purely on cost grounds, although the Government can find billions for Trident. John Richards, Sutton, Surrey.

made him look silly. Can we have the one of Arthur Scargill that made him appear to be giving a Nazi salute next? I expect better of you. Martin Davis, Norwich.

THE only thing at all wrong with John Edmonds's "greedy bastards" speech was that no member of the Government made it first. Andrew Connell, London.

VERY funny of you to give a quarter of your front page to a soap of John Edmonds that

ing industrial democracy and increasing productivity. But social partnership also requires statutory national level forums, as in successful European economies. Peter O'Brien, Stockton-on-Tees.

Funny of you to give a quarter of your front page to a soap of John Edmonds that

has proudly announced the target was his personal choice. He must have felt as if he was in the one of those restaurants where you look in the tank and choose your fish. "I think I'll have, humm, that one," he must have said, and then sat down ready to enjoy it.

Then there was Rudy Ray Rector, the mentally ill man whose execution Clinton insisted on witnessing during his election campaign. After all, he couldn't have voters thinking he was one of these liberals who thinks a man can be forgiven just because he bites his lip and says "Ah have sinned".



## Fast and loose with the presidency

IN 1988 President Andrew Johnson had become so unpopular that he was harassed and heckled whenever he spoke in public. Strictly speaking, President Johnson broke the law (albeit a law which was itself dubious in its constitutionality). Even so, the senate debated by one vote the measure to impeach him.

Historians have identified this moment as a pivotal one for the American presidency: had the vote gone the other way, the principle of executive independence would have been severely undermined.

For Americans such precedents are not as distant as they would be here, because constitutional continuity provides them with so much of their self-definition as a nation. Therefore the response of the American electorate to the Starr report may not be quite as unsophisticated and inchoate as Hugo Young claims (Comment, September 15). Politicians are nervous about their response not merely because the poll data lacks clarity, but because across the political spectrum there is a recognition that to impeach Clinton now would do far more than end the Cold War-era "imperial presidency" (Letters, September 15) — it

would be a momentous shift in the balance of the constitution. Adam F Smith, Cambridge.

EVERY four years, Americans elect one man to perform two different roles: to run the country, and to represent the nation. Had Bill Clinton's job embraced only the former aspect, it probably wouldn't matter very much what he got up to. What must rile the moral right is that a competent but sexually incontinent chief executive is the figurehead for the American state.

To suggest that some aspect of the American constitution might require revision, such as the separation of executive and state functions into two offices, would probably be regarded as an even greater heresy than any Clinton has so far committed. Dr Richard A Brook, Carnoustie, Angus.

THE Americans should take heart: after 1,000 years or so of assorted monarchs playing fast and loose, Britain survives. But we should take heed: presidents are not necessarily better than monarchs. Roland Metcalf, Manchester.

## Fear determines response of women to domestic violence

CAROLYN Hoyle seems to have overlooked one obvious explanation (Crime after crime, G2, September 14) for why women who have been abused don't wish their partners to be dealt with by the criminal justice process: fear. Fear of the man and of what he knows him to be capable of doing to her and her children. Fear of how he will react to her involvement as a witness against him. Fear of how the process will turn out, knowing that it is unlikely to be given a judicial sentence.

Maybe some of the women Carolyn Hoyle spoke to would feel more positive about criminal justice sanctions if they knew that prison for the man was more than the remotest possibility. Maybe they would feel differently if they didn't have to give evidence against their partner. It is patronising to claim to know what all women want. Some women want their men to be changed so they can stay with them

without being abused. Some want their men sent to prison so they and their children can get on with their lives.

Domestic abuse is a complex area of criminal behaviour and one solution is unlikely to apply to all. Programmes for abusers are not effective with all men, and while they may be part of the answer, they are not the whole answer.

For Carolyn Hoyle to imply that feminists have imposed our analysis of domestic abuse without any consideration of what women want is insulting. We have over 25 years of experience of listening to women, and our analysis came out of that experience rather than the other way round. We are still a long way off providing a coherent, consistent response to domestic abuse in Britain. Hoyle's work has missed the point. Lesley Irving, Scottish Women's Aid, Edinburgh.

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## Guilty as charged

Mark Steel

NEWSNIGHT. Today, every current affairs show, almost every one seems to be in Washington interviewing someone whose caption might as well read "An American".

I bet this week's Animal Hospital comes live from outside the White House with Wolf saying "Do you think he'll be impached little fellow" to a crippled tortoise.

And what have they all discovered? A 400-page report full of details about which "breasts" went near which "genitalia", which mums you wonder whether the whole thing was Kenneth Starr's attempt to write a tacky airport novel. Maybe his first draft went: "On the ninth occasion, Ms Lewinsky exhaled a low barely audible groan as the President's hands wandered up expectantly, hesitant at first but gaining pace until his reassuring fingers, more confident since the Canada trade agreement, gently squeezed her tender nipples. 'I want to lick you all over,' he whispered into her inviting ear, 'only I'm meeting Yasser Arafat about the peace accord in a minute, so I'll have to wait till Wednesday.'"

Meanwhile it's reported that the Clinton trick of doubling the number of patrol agents on the Mexican border has led to 170 Mexicans dying this year in the attempt to

cross it. As they dehydrate in the desert, I wonder if they think "the moment I went off him was when I heard about the cigar". Deportations are currently running at 25,000 a year more than George Bush managed. About 4,500 children a month continue to die in Iraq as a result of Clinton's sanctions.

Yet columnists throughout the world ignore atrocities like this, to advise Hillary on how to handle her marriage. If they'd have been around in 1945 they'd have written: "All women will be touched this weekend by the sad dilemma which faces poor Eva Braun as she consoles her husband in that gloomy bunker. Here is a woman who has stuck by her man, even during the retreat from Stalingrad when she must have missed the loving cuddles which every marriage needs..."

Not only is famine-torn Sudan now without its main medicine factory, but Clinton

has proudly announced the target was his personal choice. He must have felt as if he was in the one of those restaurants where you look in the tank and choose your fish. "I think I'll have, humm, that one," he must have said, and then sat down ready to enjoy it.

Then there was Rudy Ray Rector, the mentally ill man whose execution Clinton insisted on witnessing during his election campaign. After all, he couldn't have voters thinking he was one of these liberals who thinks a man can be forgiven just because he bites his lip and says "Ah have sinned".

Some \$18 billion a year has been cut off welfare and the poorest fifth of the population is 20 per cent worse off now than they were when he became president, with an average 80 per cent of their incomes going on rent. None of them were guests at Clinton's dinner on Monday night, which cost \$50,000 per couple

to attend. He probably bought his tickets a while ago, so no wonder he wanted to patch things up with Hillary. If she refused to go, he was chucking \$25,000 worth of grub down the chute.

AND, while executive pay is 500 per cent higher in real terms than 15 years ago and profits are at an all-time high, Clinton's Welfare scheme allows states to stop a family's welfare after one month. The sick and disabled are forced to sweep the streets or get their benefits cut. Despite the promise to extend health care, 44 million people, the highest in America's history, have no health provision at all. The inevitable rise in crime is dealt with by Clinton's law allowing life sentences to be given for three offences, however minor, so that one man is serving 25 years after stealing a pizza. And while one man watches

gormlessly over the destruction he's helped to create, Americans must think they'd be better off with Nero. At least he only fiddled.

Clinton's behaviour towards the women he seduces is atrocious. Though out as bad as towards those he's starved, jailed, impoverished and bombed.

It's as if the world's media had descended on Gloucester to produce endless debates about whether Fred West could survive the scandal of being behind with his milk bill. With entire newspapers devoted to "the potentially damaging video which appears to show Mr West's dog fouling the footpath, which, if proved, would lead to further calls for his resignation".

While the more serious reporters insisted that the tragedy of the affair was that it prevented the head of the household from getting on with the important task of murdering the rest of the family.



Ricardo Ramirez

# Stalemate from scorched earth

**R**ICARDO Ramirez, who has died aged 67, was better known by his *nom-de-guerre* of Rolando Morán. Under this name the senior comandante of the Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unity (URNG) guerrilla coalition had fought the singularly brutal oligarchy of his native land for almost four decades.

The son of an army colonel, he was just 13 when a democratically-inspired revolution ended the dictatorship of Jorge Ubico in 1944. In his teens, Ramirez was a leftwing student activist, a leading member of the road-workers' union (STC) and a Communist Party (PCP) militant.

An enthusiastic supporter of the left-leaning government of Jacobo Arbenz (1951-54), he was forced into exile when a United States-backed coup toppled the president and ushered in a military dictatorship

that was to last until 1968. Having sought asylum in the Argentine embassy, he found himself in the company of the young Che Guevara. "Ricardo Ramirez is perhaps one of the most capable leaders of the (communist) youth," observed Guevara. "His general level of culture is high and his manner of facing problems is much less dogmatic than that of other comrades."

It was a reputation for flexibility and pragmatism that the future guerrilla leader would retain throughout his career. Much of the credit for the 1986 peace accords, signed with the elected, civilian government of Alvaro Arzú, is undoubtedly due to Ramirez's combination of tenacity and vision.

How much he was inspired at the time by his meeting with Che is unclear. But in 1968, after the overthrow of the Cuban dictator Fulgencio Batista, he was in Havana for

the inauguration of the communist regime led by Fidel Castro and Guevara, and it was the Cuban example that he later sought to imitate in Guatemala.

The following year, disgruntled army officers launched an attempted coup which — though unsuccessful — ultimately led to the foundation of the country's first guerrilla organisation, the Rebel Armed Forces (FAR). Ricardo Ramirez was a founder member, and became the political officer of the FAR's Edgar Ibarra front, led by Turcios Lima.

The original FAR was modelled on Castro's July 26 Movement and applied a "Folquista" strategy, which in essence relied on the inspirational effect of a small, armed group to spark a popular uprising.

Within a few years, the organisation was almost wiped out. Survivors, includ-



ing Ramirez/Morán, regrouped in Cuba and examined the reasons for their failure. The outcome was a seminal 1967 document written by Ramirez which ultimately became the founding text of a new armed movement, the Guerrilla Army of the Poor (EGP).

Ramirez was in Cuba for the inauguration of regime led by Castro and Guevara, and it was their example he sought to imitate in Guatemala

In January 1972, 15 armed men crossed the border from Mexico into Guatemala's Ixcán region to launch the EGP. Ramirez, the politician, was not among them, but remained in Cuba to direct the struggle from a distance. In place of Cuban-style "Folquismo" and an emphasis on

class struggle, the EGP adopted a strategy of "prolonged popular war" based among the predominantly indigenous inhabitants of rural Guatemala. Its logo, however, incorporated a line-drawing of Che Guevara.

"One of our basic political premises," the EGP declared in 1982, "is that in Guatemala the ethnic-national contradiction is one of the fundamental factors in all possible revolutionary change."

With this in mind, the group set about recruiting large numbers of Mayan Indians, who make up around half the population of Guatemala, although its leadership was always dominated by "ladinos" (non-Indians). The strategy was to prove disastrous for the Indians, who bore the brunt of the scorched-earth policy adopted in response by the armed forces. Hundreds of villages were

obliterated and tens of thousands of Indians forced into exile. The EGP, which had undoubtedly succumbed to revolutionary triumphalism, inspired by the 1979 victory of the Sandinista (FSLN) guerrillas in Nicaragua and the strength of the Salvadoran FMLA, was forced to retreat along with the other armed movements.

Never again did the guerrillas pose a serious threat to the Guatemalan regime, despite the unification of the four existing groups as the URNG in 1982. But nor could the army achieve an outright victory.

Ramirez/Morán became the EGP representative on the URNG's general command in 1984. In 1986 the army finally launched the reins of government — though only a small slice of the real power — to a civilian president, Vinicio Cerezo, an event which signalled the beginning of a pro-

tracted, and frequently suspended, peace process.

It took 10 years — and four governments — for a final agreement to be signed, years which Ramirez spent mostly in exile in Mexico and travelling the world. Only after the signing did he return to live in his native Guatemala and concentrate on the creation of the URNG's own political party.

Seldom entirely well — he had lost a lung as a result of childhood tuberculosis — the former guerrilla leader was hospitalised last week for an operation which he did not survive. He leaves a wife, María del Carmen Flores Rodríguez, three sons and four grandchildren.

**Phil Gannon**  
Ricardo Arnoldo Ramirez de León (aka Comandante Rolando Morán) guerrilla leader, politician, born December 29, 1930; died September 11, 1998

Anthony Tucker

## The journalist who loved science

**A**NTHONY Tucker, who has died aged 74, was a newspaperman who became a legend even before he was well-known. Phil to friends in the office, Tony to friends outside and Anthony to his readers, he was the Guardian's science correspondent from 1964 and the days of the Apollo programme to 1988 and the aftermath of Chernobyl.

But his lifelong passion for science never got in the way of a profound suspicion of powerful establishments and a firm belief that some technologies were more useful and less dangerous than others. He understood that a reporter's job was to report, but in doing so he sometimes turned dull encounters into high theatre. I first saw him, decades ago, at a press conference by the United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority, at which highly complex information was delivered with bland smoothness to an uncomprehending press corps.

"If there are no further questions, I suggest we move to the buffet stage of the proceedings," said the chairman, with a smirk — there having been no questions at all.

And then the door opened and in strode Anthony Tucker, wearing a jumper and socks with sandals. He leaned against the door pillar and swiftly delivered a question apparently so devastating in its implications that it sparked instant panic at the chairman's table. Experts

were sent for, bromides were administered, the buffet lunch grew cold. Having not understood the question, nobody understood the answers either. So the episode closed with Anthony Tucker conducting his own impromptu conference, dictating the story of the day as he saw it to the rest of the British press.

He was fascinated by microscopy, and for decades in-

He strode in wearing a jumper and sandals, and asked a question which sparked instant panic

vestment in sustainable energy technologies; he was also profoundly concerned about what powerful nations should be doing for the developing world. He could be hugely and enjoyably critical of complacency in the nuclear industry; time was to prove him right. But he had little formal training in science.

Anthony Tucker was born in Urmston, near Manchester. Educated at Stretford Grammar School, he began to study aeronautical engineering at Queens College in Belfast early in the second world war. He then joined the Royal Air Force, and flew Hurri-

cans and Spitfires in North Africa and Europe.

He never had much to say about that part of his life. When pressed, he would admit to having helped liberate France from the south, in what became known as the "champion campaign". When pressed further, he would deny all knowledge, saying he had been drunk the whole time, but it was his habit to deflect unwelcome questions with irreverent answers. Close friends understood, and asked no further.

He graduated in fine art from Manchester College of Art and then walked into legend by arriving in the old Manchester Guardian offices in Cross Street early in 1953 to paint a very large mural on the canvas wall. High on the scaffold he was joined by the assistant editor John Anderson, who asked if he knew anyone who could write arts notices. Tucker suggested himself. This did not stay on, drawing maps for the weather pages, writing Miscellany, the diary column, editing pictures. By 1957 he was officially a sub-editor.

He was one of the founder members of the Guardian's features department, which in the course of the next decade launched a revolution in the way serious newspapers were to address the issues of the day. He once told me that the late Brian Redhead, then a colleague, had said to him: "Let's found a features department. You can be my deputy." He introduced dramatic



Anthony Tucker... at his Guardian desk, and (below, second left) in Udine, Italy in 1945

changes into the design of arts and features pages in the early 1960s, and became one of the most respected newspaper art critics of the time.

When the Guardian's then science correspondent John Maddox, went on, shortly to become editor of Nature, Anthony Tucker took over science, covering among many things the dramatic landing on the Moon, the emerging alarms over environmental pollution, and what above all he saw as the abuse of science. In 1967 he was already campaigning for lead-free petrol. 14 years later he was highlighting the destruction of the rain-forests.

He was one of the first journalists, in the mid-1960s, to become aware of the seriousness of the coming BSE crisis, and he maintained all his life, an appetite for challenging authority, scientific as well as bureaucratic. He retired in 1988 and after a sudden heart attack at his St Albans home, underwent bypass surgery at the National Heart Hospital in Chelsea. But nothing dampened his enthusiasm for life, his sense of comedy or his passion for science. He was a frequent and highly valued contributor to the Guardian's obituary pages to the end. He is survived by his wife, his son and two daughters.

**Tim Radford**

**Pearce Wright** writes: Phil Tucker was competitive, combative, mischievous and, above all, compassionate. We were professional competitors and close friends for 35 years. He squeezed more than seemed possible in most 24 hour days, and he liked nothing better than a cause to champion. Consequently Guardian readers knew, long before most others, about the hazards of the greenhouse effect, low levels of toxic metals in the environment like lead



and cadmium, and radiation from nuclear tests and waste. He was fearless in challenging the secrecy of authority, especially when it corrupted proper scientific debate. When he chatted last week he talked about a campaign to protect some two-centuries old yew trees, his involvement in challenging some of the prevailing views about the spread of new variant CJD or human form of BSE (mad cow disease), his delight at getting back on the road with his overhauled Alfa Romeo, and a prowess at golf he discovered after retirement — interrupted only for the triple heart bypass.

Phil unwittingly sketched a pen-portrait of himself a few years ago in a booklet for the Association of British Science Writers — *So You Want To Be A Science Writer*. He said the lot of a science specialist could range from the rapid assessment of a serious but local pollution incident to grasping and describing new scientific understanding of the way human activities are disturbing global systems; from research findings about fundamental matter at the lat-

est particle accelerator to the smutty gadgetry of urban life; from the best technical routes for developing nations, to the survival of endangered species or enforcement of new international nuclear agreements.

Science writers, like all other journalists, must have an insatiable appetite for reading, and the best are endowed with a memory like a filing cabinet. Some of the specialist literature has to be approached with the help of scientific contacts built up on a basis of personal trust over many years. Such personal contacts, which at the highest level are international and often involve lifelong friendships, are one of the enabling structures of journalism. The first thing to do when entering the field is to make some friends!

Phil put all this advice into practice. All that experience plus a lightness of touch earned him the annual prize for science journalism several times.

**Philip Anthony Tucker**, journalist, born June 1, 1924; died September 15, 1998

### Letter

**Glen Barrington** writes: I first met Claudia Flanders (obituary August 17) when with her husband, Michael, in Southall in 1972. Not long after, following her husband's death, she opened the Michael Flanders Centre in Acton and our paths often crossed. Clau-

dia was a powerhouse with energy and enthusiasm for the causes close to her. She did much to highlight the needs of the disabled, as a practical worker and not someone with theories. Claudia was not the type of person to go for the limelight but

solidly worked away in the background. Always a good listener and cheerful, she was also a person of great charm and wit. All of us that knew her will miss those special qualities, those chats over coffee or wine that made Claudia a one-off.

### Birthdays

**Lauren Bacall**, actress, 74; **Charles Byrd**, jazz guitarist, 73; **Prof Ken Coates**, Labour MEP, 68; **Dennis Conner**, American yachtsman, 56; **Peter Falk**, actor, 71; **Lloyd Grossman**, broadcaster and chef, 68; **Charles Haughey**, former Irish prime minister, 73; **Jon Hendricks**, lyricist, singer, 77; **Dusty Hughes**, playwright, 51; **Andy Irvine**, former Scotland rugby captain, 47; **B B King**, blues guitarist, singer, 72; **Lee Kuan Yew**, former prime minister of Singapore, 78; **Judith Miller**, publisher, 47; **Stephanie Middleton**, artist, glass sculptor, 30; **Sadako Ogata**, UN High Commissioner for Refugees, 71; **Dame Sheila Quinn**, president, Standing Committee of Nurses of RBC, 78; **Steve Shirley**, computer pioneer, founder director, FI Group, 65; **Mickey Stewart**, cricketer and coach, 66; **Peter Townsend**, golfer, 62; **David Wilshire**, Conservative MP, 55.

### A Country Diary

**WENLOCK EDGE:** This is the season of "mellow fruitfulness" when we mammals bulge up for winter. For the wild ones it's not so mellow, it's a serious business. There is one animal whose mighty appetite propels it to take extreme gastronomic risks to prepare for leaner times ahead. One morning, at the top of the woods, there was a square-shaped excavation dug into the heart of a very large wasp's nest. This must have been the work of a badger. Who else could sustain an attack from an entire wasp colony and get away with eating its contents? This was the second such excavation in this vicinity and it was obvious that this individual had perfected a valuable if dangerous skill. My guess is that the badger had struck in a pre-dawn raid when the wasps were dozy. They were certainly wide awake now and very pissed-off. I was lucky that my curiosity only earned me one major sting and I had

to leg it through the woods, chased by an irate posse of wasps hell-bent on revenge. Good old Brock, eh? A hundred yards away in the corner of a field there were a series of excavations but here they'd been filled. This was the badger's territorial latrine, many holes filled with turds of fairly epic proportions, some bejewelled with the bright purple remains of violet-edged ground beetles — good evidence that the local badger community is flourishing. How long until the government's culling programme catches up with them? The sceptic in me suspects the government of trying to suppress an ailing agriculture industry by sacrificing thousands of badgers. An awful price to pay for a scientific "experiment" and a sop to the farmers. This time the badger has dug into a political wasp's nest for which it has no defences, except maybe public support.

**PAUL EVANS**

### CORRECTIONS AND CLARIFICATIONS

**THE FEE** for an academic year at the European Business School is not £38,645, the figure given on Page 4, yesterday. It is £28,645 for the first year and £7,945 thereafter. It was a repeat of our familiar email error.

**IN OUR television review**, Page 34, G2, September 11, we said "Some £350 has gone into making *Viagra*". We missed off the word "million".

**IN AN article** in Guardian Weekend, headed *The god of fast things*, Page 41, September 13, we suggested that at the speed of light you could make 11,180 return journeys from Victoria to Brighton in 80 minutes. In fact, you would only need about six seconds.

**IN THE OBITUARY** for Jackie Blanchflower, Page 20, September 4, we referred to his spell in goal in the 1988 Cup Final between Manchester United and Aston Villa, after United's goalkeeper, Ray Wood, was injured. We should have said 1987. That final took place before the Munich crash (after which Blanchflower never played professional football again).

**A GRAPHIC** on Page 12, Sport, September 14, giving the results of the Italian Grand Prix at Monza, correctly placed Alessi fifth and said he was driving a Sauber-Petronas, but illustrated that entry with a Ford.

**ON PAGE 19**, Travel, September 12, we accidentally referred to the Victorian & Albert Museum in a piece which concluded it would be

a bad thing if the V&A changed its name.

**ALARMS** and Excursions, Michael Frayn's new play, reviewed on Page 4, yesterday, is at the Gielgud Theatre, not what became over the telephone, the Gilded Theatre.

**FIONA Mactaggart**, the Labour MP, who appeared in the Birthdays column, Page 14, September 12, spells her name like that, without any internal capitals.

**CORRECTION** to a correction, Page 15, September 14. A consultant paediatrician writes: "Dr Benjamin Spock was not a child psychologist (and a very good one)."

**It is the policy of the Guardian** to correct errors as soon as possible. Please quote date and page number. Readers may contact the office of the Readers' Editor by telephoning 0171 239 9589 between 11am and 5pm, Monday to Friday. Surface mail to Readers' Editor, The Guardian, 119, Farringdon Road, London EC1R 3ER. Fax: 0171 239 9597. E-mail: reader@guardian.co.uk

### Death Notices

**NORRIS**, Marie, on 14th September. Aged 91. Wife of Ian and beloved mother of 10. Daughter of John and Mary. Buried at North London Hospital. Donations to North London Hospice. 0171 724 4847 or fax 0171 713 4707 between 9am and 5pm Mon-Fri.

**Nigel Slater's latest free recipe card gives a welcome twist to traditional Chinese meals.**

The Observer

This week's recipe for noodle soup with grilled fish should satisfy everyone. Free in the Observer this Sunday.

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## Inflation hits target at last

Mark Atkinson  
Economics Correspondent

**T**HE clamour for lower interest rates to boost flagging economic growth intensified yesterday as inflation hit the Government's target for the first time since January.

With the deteriorating international economic situation prompting world financial leaders to sight their guns on deflation rather than inflation, the consensus in the City was that it was now safe for the Bank of England to loosen the monetary reins to avert a recession.

But the Bank's governor, Eddie George, indicated that such a move may be some way off. He told the TUC that while the nine-member monetary policy committee would cut rates vigorously once it became clear inflation would undershoot the Government's target, that point had not yet been reached.

The Chancellor, Gordon Brown, refused to be drawn

on whether the Bank of England would join in a round of interest rate cuts and cautioned that precipitate action after the 1997 stock market crash had sent the economy into recession. There was a similar message from the Bundesbank president, Hans Tietmeyer, who argued that interest rates should be set in response to domestic conditions.

Despite the caution Mr

Brown did little to dampen speculation that the next move in interest rates would be down, emphasising that Monday's 0.7 statement had said that the balance of risks in the world economy had shifted away from inflation to deflation.

According to the Office for National Statistics, headline inflation fell to an annual rate of 3.3 per cent in August from 3.5 per cent, while the under-

lying measure, which excludes mortgage interest payments, dropped to the Government's target of 2.5 per cent from 2.6 per cent.

The fall in inflation came in spite of a sharp increase in seasonal food prices and was mainly driven by cheaper mortgage rates and the continuation of low goods prices in the high street. Prices of core goods, which exclude food, drink, tobacco and petrol, fell

by 0.4 per cent year-on-year. In July they had fallen by 0.1 per cent year-on-year.

"These data underline that there is no obvious inflation problem in the UK, even services inflation declined — and provide a very reassuring backdrop for discussions about rate cuts," said John O'Sullivan of Greenwich NatWest in the City.

The prospect of lower British interest rates in the

months ahead put the skids under the pound which, on the eve of the sixth anniversary of Black Wednesday, fell from 2.85 to 2.82 against the German mark.

The Chancellor heralded the news of inflation returning to its target as a vindication of his policies since the election.

He said: "This shows the tough action we have taken over the last year or more — first of all by reducing the deficit and by the new monetary framework we have created — has brought inflation to our target of 2.5 per cent."

"I think it's important to recognise that we are steering a stable course for the British economy. This is even more important for the UK in times of world economic instability."

Further good news for the Government is expected today with figures set to show a continued fall in unemployment in August, despite widespread predictions of an increase, and a further fall in average earnings growth to around 4.8 per cent.

### Notebook

## Governor plays his union card



Alex Brummer

**T**HE idea that Eddie George would find a visit to the TUC conference in Blackpool intimidating is laughable. The Bank of England governor delights in being combative, as colleagues who have worked with him in the Threadneedle Street boiler room will testify.

Moreover, by instinct he is not an anti-union person.

He was bitterly disappointed when the Major government blocked the re-appointment of (Sir) Gavin Laird, former general secretary of the AEU, to the Court — the Bank's governing body — in 1994. The union leader's contributions to the debate about the real economy had made him a valued member of the Court, renowned for sensible interventions.

Mr George is less the inflation nut than he has been portrayed by those looking for an easy target at a time when interest rates have been rising, and more the pragmatist. In the present turbulent global market conditions, he would almost certainly be more sympathetic than are some of his more theory-based colleagues to the view that the monetary policy committee needs to be less aggressive.

It is his sound political instincts which encouraged Mr George to go to Blackpool and speak plainly.

Clearly, despite the Group of Seven statement on Monday evening in which growth was placed ahead of an anti-inflation strategy, the Bank is not going to be rushing to cut rates — though it is clear that they have peaked.

It may be increasingly impressed by the Government's inflation numbers, however. These show that the Bank is hitting the target on the closely monitored underlying rate of inflation. But they also show that the deflationary trends, detected in the previous month's figures, intensified in August when the core goods prices fell 0.4 per cent from a year earlier. Moreover, the economists at HSBC observed in a circular, leisure services inflation, which had been stubbornly strong, is also in retreat.

The struggle against UK price inflation may not be totally won, especially as the fiscal settlement for next year looks over-georgous. Nevertheless, there is enough comfort in the latest figures for the Bank to join in a co-ordinated interest rate cut, if that is deemed necessary to preserve global order.

nism. Nevertheless, the export squeeze resulting from the strong pound is starting to ease. The pound slipped a further three pence to 2.8291. German marks following Eddie George's talk to the TUC. The combination of falling interest rate expectations and a weaker pound may take some of the pressure off exporters, who have been having a torrid time.

The softening sterling exchange rate appears to reflect a number of factors. There is the realisation that UK growth — which has averaged 3 per cent over the upswing in the economic cycle — is now slowing rapidly in comparison with the continental economies. Strong economies beget firm currencies. Moreover, in the run-up to the euro, the pound was seen as a relatively safe haven, but as the launch of the new currency grows closer portfolios are being adjusted to ensure that investment funds will not be under-exposed to the new currency.

There is no anticipation of a sterling collapse akin to that six years ago. But a gentle fall in sterling to a more competitive level of DM2.50-2.60 would make a softer landing for the UK economy likely and provide a more sensible dealing rate in which Britain could start contemplating becoming part of the euro area.

## Welsh fury as pound hits 2,000 jobs

David Gow in Blackpool

**T**WO Wales-based plants are considering laying off nearly 2,000 employees. Yesterday Hoover confirmed it plans to halt washing-machine production in Merthyr Tydfil for a week.

The town's major manufacturing employer said it was holding talks with

union officials about possible lay-offs among the 1,000-strong work force.

Citing a downturn in UK markets and the effect of sterling's strength on European sales, Hoover said it needed to cut its "unacceptably" high levels of stock.

Ken Jackson, leader of the AEEU engineering and electrical union, said at the TUC conference in Blackpool: "This demonstrates

the twin evils of high interest rates and the strong pound and their devastating effect on manufacturing."

He urged the Bank of England to cut interest rates — just minutes after the Bank's governor, Eddie George, rejected demands from some unions for an immediate cut to save 250,000 manufacturing jobs.

Lord (Keith) Brookman, leader of the steel union, the

ISTC, blamed the pound for a loss of more than 23 million in the last six months at Allied Steel and Wire despite efforts to turn the company around. More than 800 jobs are now at risk.

He said: "How many more jobs have to be lost before the Government acts and gives the Bank of England a new remit to keep inflation low but also to stimulate growth?"

## Anna to step down as media mogul's director

Mark Tran in Washington

**A**NNA Murdoch, the estranged wife of Rupert Murdoch, is to retire from the board of News Corporation where she has served as a director since 1990. The announcement is the latest twist in the process of the couple's separation.

Her retirement, which will be effective from October 13, was revealed in News Corporation's annual report, which was released on Monday. When Mrs Murdoch filed for divorce in July, the company indicated that she would remain on the board. This news seems to suggest that the separation may not be proceeding as amicably as the couple have led people to believe.

In her divorce petition, Mrs Murdoch cited "irreconcilable differences". One sentence hinted at a possible wrangle over financial assets: she stated that she "was unaware of the full nature and



Director's cut... Mrs Murdoch is divorcing Rupert - she is to retire from the board of News Corporation on October 13

PHOTOGRAPH: MITCHEL LEVY

extent of her separate assets... and will amend her petition after discovery or at trial."

However, in the report, Mr Murdoch paid tribute to "two retiring directors" including his wife of 31 years.

"Anna's support has been enormously helpful to me in

what I must admit is a demanding and turbulent career. Her contribution to News Corporation includes, but goes far beyond, our three children, Elizabeth, Lachlan and James, all now working in the company and making significant contributions," Mr Murdoch wrote.

Mrs Murdoch, aged 54, will retain a connection with News Corporation through the family's stake in the company. She is to join the board of Cruden Investments, the Australia-based private company through which the Murdoch family owns a 30 per cent stake in News Corpora-

tion. That suggests that Mrs Murdoch, who is also a twice-published novelist, will get an interest in that stake as part of the settlement of her divorce action.

Analysts speculate that she may get a 10 per cent interest in Cruden, which would put the value of her stake at

\$800 million (£379 million). But she would be unable to sell that to the public as Cruden is a private company and Mr Murdoch is in no position to buy her out.

The couple met when Mrs Murdoch was a trainee reporter on one of his Australian newspapers.

### American hitch

**I**F THERE ever were any doubts as to which of the two partners, NationsBank or BankAmerica, would be in the driving seat when their \$570 billion (£340 billion) merger is consummated by shareholders on September 20, it has almost certainly been settled by the latest earnings statement from San Francisco. In its second profit warning in a matter of weeks, BankAmerica let it be known that its trading losses for the present quarter have reached \$330 million as a result of Russia's crisis, volatile markets, and the cost of purchasing and carrying securities. If BankAmerica is having trouble on this scale — and the volatility shows no sign of retreating — then the whole investment banking sector must be vulnerable.

Despite this turn of events, NationsBank chief executive Hugh McColl, who created the bank by making a series of shrewd acquisitions over this decade, has said he intends to plough on and turn the merger into a success. The US's only genuinely national retail banking operation, although it could do with a little more coverage across the rustbelt states around the Great Lakes.

Mr McColl emphasised that the new company would have a more diversified source of earnings and be more efficient than its predecessor. Despite the trading setback, BankAmerica still expects to make \$500 million this quarter, against \$819 million in the same period of last year. However, once Mr McColl has his hands on the tiller the betting must be that the new BankAmerica will be more a retail bank and less a trader.

## GKN aims for Airbus-style pact

Terry Macalister

**T**HE alliance of Britain's GKN with German and French firms, which won the race to produce the multi-role armoured vehicle, is to be developed as an Airbus-type company bidding for further European defence consolidation.

David Wright, managing director of GKN's defence activities, said further Euroconsortium joint ventures were expected.

Financial links were possible, although he refused to comment on suggestions that talks on equity swaps had already taken place.

Mr Wright admitted that state ownership of France's Cist like the position of Aerospace in the Airbus project, potentially made closer integration difficult. He was speaking after announcing a £78 million merger between GKN Defence and Alvis, with the merged armoured vehicle divisions shedding up to 200 jobs.

GKN will take a 29.9 per cent stake in the Alvis group and a seat on the board as part of a deal which is set to produce savings of £5 million annually but still needs shareholder and regulator approval.

Last night all eyes were on Vickers, the UK's third tank

manufacturer, which turned down an earlier offer to buy GKN Defence. Sources said Vickers was still primed to make some kind of move on either the new joint venture or Alvis. "Expect to see Vickers at the negotiating table," one source said.

The two merger parties plan to close Alvis's Coventry site, costing 300 jobs, and concentrate on GKN's plant in Telford, Shropshire, where 60 posts could be created. The companies are working on a October 19 completion date. The agreement does not affect GKN's Westland helicopter or aerospace interests.

Nick Frost, chairman of Alvis, said the deal would

strengthen his company's operational management, produce a more comprehensive product portfolio and give it more clout in European projects. He saw the multi-role armoured vehicle business as a vehicle for further European consolidation.

"This transaction will position Alvis as one of the leading light and medium armoured vehicle companies in the world," he said.

Analysts said yesterday's merger made sense, although Sandy Morris of ABN Amro expressed surprise at the £78 million price which GKN had extracted, given the relatively weak position of its defence business.

## Merger makes millions for estate agents

Jill Treanor

**T**HE 45 partners of estate agency Healey & Baker achieved millionaire status yesterday after clinching a £70 million merger with Cushman & Wakefield of the US.

Paul Orchard-Lisle, senior partner, is the single biggest owner of Healey & Baker with a stake of nearly 4 per cent, valued at almost £3 million.

Another 44 partners have equity stakes in the estate agency of various proportions, while 86 more are salaried partners who will receive smaller payouts from the sale.

All the partners have reinvested 35 per cent of their stakes back in to the new estate agency, which will continue to be known as Healey & Baker in Europe and the Middle East.

Of the £70 million price tag, £21 million has immediately been paid out in taxes.

Healey & Baker's merger with Cushman & Wakefield is the culmination of an eight-year joint venture between the two property consultancies.

The sale is also part of a trend of UK and US property companies to link up. Earlier this year Richard



Ellis, another UK estate agency, was bought by Insignia of the US.

The current Healey & Baker board, run by Mr Orchard-Lisle, will continue to manage the business which was first set up in 1820 and now employs 750 people.

The combined business will have an estimated turnover of £368 million this year. Last year Healey & Baker's turnover was £35 million.

Cushman & Wakefield, founded in 1917, employs 5,500 in 45 cities across the US and is 80 per cent owned by the Rockefeller Group, which is 100 per cent owned by the Mitsubishi Estate Company.

### Sterling slide

**I**T WASN'T quite Black Wednesday as the foreign exchange markets celebrated the sixth anniversary of Britain's withdrawal from the exchange rate mecha-

## Group linked with Spurs and United pays £1m for Basle

Roger Cowe

**E**NIC, the investment company which has been linked with Manchester United and Tottenham Hotspur, yesterday paid £1 million to take control of the Swiss first division club, Basle.

It will pay just over £400,000 for half the club's shares and make an interest-free loan of £200,000, which could eventually rise to £1.5 million.

The club was rescued last year by a group of Swiss investors, including the bank UBS, a principal sponsor of the team. UBS will own a fifth of the shares and has also provided loan capital.

The new investors have developed plans for a new all-seater stadium which will be the first in Switzerland to meet international football safety regulations.

Eric owns stakes in several European clubs, including Sparta Prague and Glasgow Rangers. It revealed this week that talks to take over Tottenham Hotspur had broken down but it is still believed to be interested in acquiring the club. The investment company said yesterday that the new shareholders aimed to transform the club's fortunes through a combination of sponsorship, merchandising and broadcasting deals.

Basel made a loss last year, but ENIC said the commercial activities would be increased significantly.

Sponsorship accounts for about a third of total revenue, but new agreements will boost substantially the sums earned over the next three years. Broadcasting is seen as underdeveloped, but the club will benefit from a new deal with the German satellite channel SAT.1.

## Investors fail to deliver votes

Roger Cowe

**F**INANCIAL institutions were accused yesterday of failing to deliver on promises to vote more often at company meetings. The undertakings were made after the Hampel committee on corporate governance called on shareholders such as pension funds to use their votes.

If fund managers' voting record does not improve, the Government may make voting compulsory — a move which would horrify the City.

The fear of compulsory representation, such as the National Association of Pension Funds to urge their members to vote

regularly. Many pension funds have responded with new voting policies.

But figures from the voting service Manifest show that the proportion of votes cast at company meetings has remained below 40 per cent for the past three years.

Manifest says that among 239 companies monitored during this year's round of annual meetings only 33 per cent of meetings only 15 per cent of votes were cast. In 15 per cent of these companies, no more than a fifth of shareholders were represented by votes cast and only a quarter of companies saw more than half their shares voted.

Sarah Wilson, managing director of Manifest, said: "Fund managers don't see

themselves as owners. They need to take ownership of ownership."

She said there were still widespread breaches of the corporate governance code introduced by the Hampel committee last year, especially among smaller companies.

"Some of them are as far removed from best practice as can be imagined. There are still companies, usually smaller ones, dominated by founding families or strong individuals, and without independent non-executives."

John Rogers of the National Association of Pension Funds said: "I don't think as many people are voting their stock as they are. But a lot of pension funds have put in a

new voting practice and are told by their investment managers that they are voting their stock."

The main problem was the antiquated nature of the system for recording votes and delivering them to the registrars who manage the process. "Some registrars require eight days' notice and pension funds just can't make up their minds quickly enough."

Ms Wilson said many fund managers did not appreciate the link between good corporate governance and good financial performance, so were not prepared to devote the same level of resources to voting as they do to other aspects of asset management.

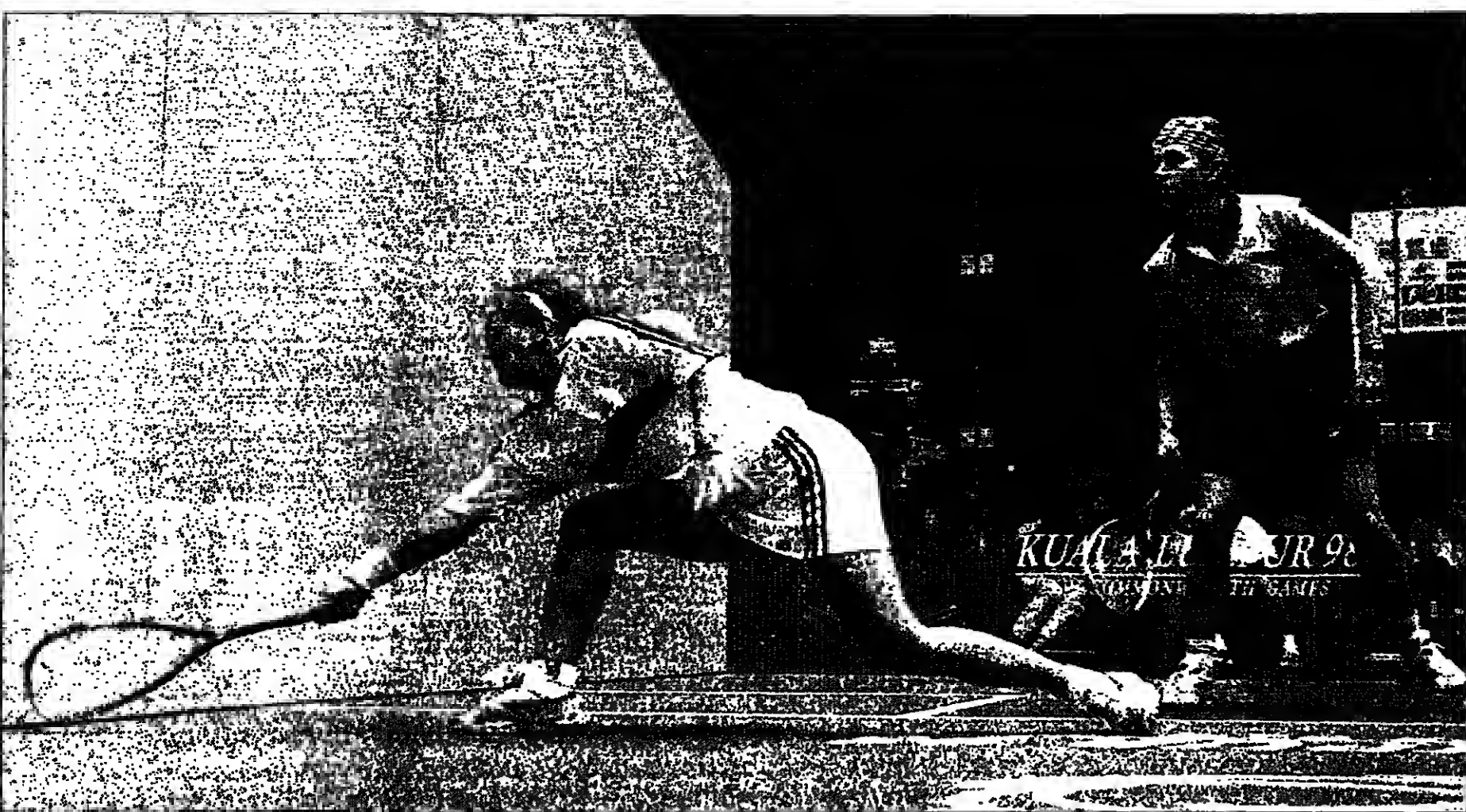
### TOURIST RATES — BANK SELLS

Australia 2.75	Germany 2.7845	Malaysia 5.43	Singapore 2.84
Austria 19.39	Greece 474.09	Malta 0.82	South Africa 10.25
Belgium 67.22	Hong Kong 12.85	Netherlands 3.10	Spain 233.58
Canada 52.46	India 71.57	New Zealand 3.18	Sweden 12.88
Cyprus 0.81	Ireland 1.0665	Norway 12.95	Switzerland 2.27
Denmark 10.80	Israel 6.50	Portugal 261.88	Turkey 445.520
Finland 6.50	Italy 2.743	Saudi Arabia 8.19	USA 1.4545
France 8.24			

Sourced by Reuters (including swaps, whole and margin)



## Commonwealth Games



Out of reach... England's Cassie Jackman goes to the wall in straight games against Sarah Fitz-Gerald of Australia in the women's squash semi-finals. PHOTOGRAPH: TOM SZUMOWSKI

Despite the English women's exit David Hopps finds Scotland's Peter Nicol in good nick for today's final against Jonathon Power

## Jackman and Wright blown off court

## Squash

THEY are unstoppable in the pool, dominant from gymnastics hall to ten-pin bowl, and considerably more assertive at hailing a taxi. Today they might begin to receive their comeuppance in the athletics stadium, but elsewhere there is no denying the Australians.

Commercial links with southeast Asia have been an Australian priority for years and here in Malaysia they are trading sweat for gold. England are picking them off as well as anyone is, but too often there has been little choice but to retreat into a world of practised irony.

Caroline Searle, spokeswoman for the England team, even officially stated last

night that "we are not unduly concerned" but two years before the Sydney Olympics the balance has undeniably shifted. Australia have overtaken England at the top of the all-time Commonwealth Games medal table, and most expect it to stay that way.

At the squash it was semi-finals day and two English women were pitted against two Australians, the world champion Sarah Fitz-Gerald and the former champion Michelle Martin. There was no relief, the English were dismissed in straight games.

Australian journalists, under pressure of deadlines, have adopted the habit in Kuala Lumpur of writing up victories hours before they happen. The semi-finals had not even begun and an opening paragraph on a nearby

computer suggested: "The right to become the public face of Australian squash is at stake in a gold medal showdown." There was no need to change a word.

The public face of English women's squash was easily identifiable. In the case of Cassie Jackman, the world No. 3, it was her mother through cancer, but the face of Sue Wright, the world No. 4, while losing 9-7, 9-1, 9-2 to Martin, at least became red, hot and zesty. But it was a losing face all the same.

Wright has a grip on life's priorities as she has nursed her mother through cancer and is not about to exaggerate the importance of sport. But, at 28, she still has ambitions to become world champion and has been searching for a more orthodox style to that

computer suggested: "The right to become the public face of Australian squash is at stake in a gold medal showdown." There was no need to change a word.

The public face of English women's squash was easily identifiable. In the case of Cassie Jackman, the world No. 3, it was her mother through cancer, but the face of Sue Wright, the world No. 4, while losing 9-7, 9-1, 9-2 to Martin, at least became red, hot and zesty. But it was a losing face all the same.

Wright has a grip on life's priorities as she has nursed her mother through cancer and is not about to exaggerate the importance of sport. But, at 28, she still has ambitions to become world champion and has been searching for a more orthodox style to that

not counting the pony-tail — expressive and extrovert, riling the referee's rulings with a ratty good humour.

Fitz-Gerald comes from a family of six but no doubt had little trouble getting her own way. With her uncomplicated, thunderous style she needed only 25 minutes to beat Jackman, who failed to set her one single question unless it was whether she was looking forward to the final. Susan Devoy, the Kiwi who dominated the game in the 1980s, tipped Jackman for the top at the age of 19 but the Australians look in no mood to abdicate.

The men's semi-finals gave much more satisfaction. The Australians were conspicuously absent and Scotland's world No. 1 Peter Nicol beat England's Paul Johnson in a deceptively attritional 9-2,

9-3, 9-1 contest to set up a final today against Canada's Jonathon Power. "I'm enjoying the Coventry schoolboy that he is," said Nicol.

Power has beaten Nicol on their last five meetings and is so adamant about his claim to the world No. 1 ranking that, had this been a Shakespearean tragedy, Nicol would have had to concede on account of being found stabbed to death in the showers.

Power's straight-games victory against the slight but mobile Welshman Alex Gough was a testy affair throughout, squash being such an intense game that blatching at the referee seems to come from some deep-seated primal survival instinct. Power mused: "It is the only sport in the Commonwealth Games where the athlete turns on the referee as part of the game."

Steven Downes sees the Australian wonder kid set up his greatest test so far

## Gold record day for The Thorpedo

## Swimming

THE teenager they call The Thorpedo won another two gold medals last night and sank another brace of Commonwealth Games records.

Ian Thorpe, the 15-year-old schoolboy from Sydney, collected gold medals numbers three and four here in the men's 400 metres freestyle and 1500m freestyle, setting up a thrilling showdown with England's world record-holder James Hickman in today's 200m butterfly. Another victory for Thorpe would equal the record number of golds won by a male swimmer at a single Commonwealth Games.

Australia have now won 35 medals out of a total of 60 presented so far in the racing pool. But while their overwhelming dominance saw them again win all five golds last night, England had the consolation of a bronze medal from Adam Whitehead, a teenager who promises to revive the British breaststroke tradition.

Aged 18 and making his senior international debut, Whitehead was by some way the novice in the 200m breaststroke final. So nervous was he that he was physically sick in the preparation room before the morning heats. Yet his final performance was one of composed, controlled swimming.

As Simon Cowley — who trains with Thorpe — complained, a breaststroke medal was a long way from the double in 2min 13.18sec, pipping Ryan Mitchell to the gold. Whitehead's 2:14.44 for third was a significant mark.

Since David Wilkie's Olympic gold 22 years ago, only the former world record-holder Nick Cutcliffe has won a Commonwealth Games gold in the 200m breaststroke. Whitehead gave up his A-level studies last Christmas to concentrate on his swim-

ming. "Now I don't know whether I'll go back," he said yesterday, looking towards the 2000 Olympics. "Of course, I want to try to achieve what Nick and Adrian Moorhouse did."

Thorpe's success in the 400m freestyle was still stunning for all that it was expected: his time of 3:44.35 is the second fastest ever and broke the Games record established by Kieren Perkins four years ago. Thorpe left the Olympic champion, New Zealand's Danyon Loader, trailing in the wake of yet another Australian 1-2-3.

At 56 inches tall and 15st, Thorpe is the biggest phenomenon to hit the water since Perkins announced his arrival as a force in world swimming eight years ago. Perkins, having won two Olympic 1500m freestyle golds, is possibly Australia's biggest sporting star and a multi-millionaire — so famous he has had a celebrity walk-on part in Neighbours.

Yesterday was two years to the day before the Olympic Games are due to be ignited in Thorpe's home city. The rewards which await the youngster if he were to dominate there, as he may well do, hardly bear thinking about.

Since winning the 400m freestyle world title in Perth last January, he has already signed endorsement deals worth £150,000 and has earned another £45,000 in government grants for being ranked world No. 1 in three events.

"I don't know how much faster I can get," Thorpe said, looking ahead two years. More immediately, though, today's 900m butterfly may be tough going for the youngster. Even before he raced in Australia's 4x100m freestyle success last night, where England won bronze behind Canada, he was complaining of the toll which five events in four days had taken.

"I'm hurting a lot at the moment," Thorpe said, the first sign so far at these Games that he is a mere mortal.



Trying time... Andrew Roche of the Isle of Man hit the tyre barrier but was unhurt and carried on racing. PHOTOGRAPH: GREG BAKER

## Wohlberg clocks on with a gold as McGregor misses out

## Cycling

ERIC WOHLBERG won the road-race time-trial gold medal yesterday but the absence of Chris Boardman took some of the gloss off the Canadian's victory.

Boardman, a renowned time-trial specialist, is still recovering from a viral infection and decided against competing in Malaysia.

"Chris being here would have made victory complete, but I'm still delighted to have won the Commonwealth title. He is the best but I intend to challenge him now," Wohlberg said.

The early leader, Stuart O'Grady of Australia, lost nearly a minute changing a wheel after crashing, which allowed the Canadian to take gold. South Africa's David George won the bronze. England's Stuart Dangerfield and Chris Newton were the best British finishers, sixth and seventh respectively.

Yorkshire's Yvonne McGregor, the current holder of the women's world hour record, finished fourth in the women's event, which was again dominated by Australia. Anna Wilson and Kathy

## Hockey

## England in double difficulty

Pat Rowley

ENGLAND'S men and women remain unbeaten as the group matches near completion but evidently neither team believe in doing things the easy way.

The women needed a last-gasp goal to beat a poor Canada side 2-1 and stay on top of their group but the men dropped points again, being held 2-2 by Malaysia.

With Canada's men sending Kenya home pointless by beating them 6-0, four teams were locked together on five points with one game each to play. Canada have the best goal difference with plus 6, ahead of their final group opponents Malaysia (4), England (2) and Pakistan (1).

So England will probably have to beat Pakistan today in their final match to reach the semi-finals. At least this is not as brilliant a Pakistan side as usual.

England played exceptionally well yesterday and deserved more than a draw against Malaysia. They led through Justin Pidcock's first international goal not gifted goals to Chairil Aziz and Mirwan Nawawi before Jon Wyatt converted a 50th-minute penalty.

England's women were on top against Canada but the forwards too often seemed afraid to attack the circle. But Mandy Nicholson atoned for a nervous first-half display with a timely double, the opening goal coming when Jane Sixsmith burst into the circle and squared the ball for Nicholson to jab through the goalkeeper's legs.

Then, 12 minutes later in rare Canadian attack, Carolyn Read hooked a corner and Aolbhinn Grimes put away the rebound. England moved up a gear after that and Nicholson scored a superb goal four minutes from time, looking first over the goalkeeper and then a covering defender.

But England's failure to build a decent goal difference could yet see them playing the favourites Australia in the semi-finals.

## Round-up



Flat out... the Indian cricketer Amay Khurasia receives attention after collapsing from the heat. PHOTOGRAPH: DAVID GRAY

## Fever scare as three go sick

THE heat, humidity and health hazards of Malaysia's tropical climate are taking their toll. Yesterday officials began spraying the athletes' village with mosquito repellent after three people had gone down with suspected dengue fever.

Robert Thornton, an Australian official, joined one of the team's fans and a New Zealand team doctor in hospital after showing symptoms of the viral fever.

"Robert could have a strain of dengue fever," said the Australian team spokesman Ian Hanson. "He's in a lot of pain, aching all over."

As there were 19,000 cases of the potentially fatal disease in Malaysia last year, Scotland's team doctors advised their athletes not to wear kilts at last Friday's opening ceremony to avoid being bitten by mosquitoes.

The Indian cricketer Amay Khurasia collapsed with heat stroke while fielding during the match against Australia.

He was taken off on a stretcher, covered with hags of ice and put on a saline drip. A team official said Khurasia would have batted in a close match, but when it became clear India were going to lose he was

taken to hospital as a precaution.

Australia won by 145 runs, with Steve Waugh completing an unbeaten century off the last ball of his side's innings. They will play New Zealand in the semi-finals tomorrow.

England's men's hockey team were put on saline drips at half-time to avoid dehydration in their pool match 2-2 draw with Malaysia. Their coach Barry Dancer said: "The players can lose as much as four kilograms. They were the hottest conditions we've played in. We'll spend the next 24 hours sleeping and taking in fluids."

## Kuala Lumpur results

## Bowls

Most Singles: Scotland 4, T. Alcock (Eng) 10; England 3, J. Smith (Aus) 10; Australia 2, J. Smith (Aus) 10; Malaysia 1, J. Smith (Aus) 10; Pakistan 1, J. Smith (Aus) 10.

Most Pairs: Scotland 4, T. Alcock (Eng) 10; England 3, J. Smith (Aus) 10; Australia 2, J. Smith (Aus) 10; Malaysia 1, J. Smith (Aus) 10; Pakistan 1, J. Smith (Aus) 10.

Most Pairs: Scotland 4, T. Alcock (Eng) 10; England 3, J. Smith (Aus) 10; Australia 2, J. Smith (Aus) 10; Malaysia 1, J. Smith (Aus) 10; Pakistan 1, J. Smith (Aus) 10.

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Most Pairs: Scotland 4, T. Alcock (Eng) 10; England 3, J. Smith (Aus) 10; Australia 2, J. Smith (Aus) 10; Malaysia 1, J. Smith (Aus) 10; Pakistan 1, J. Smith (Aus) 10.

## Boxing

## England riled by ringside score cheats

THE England boxing coach Ian Irwin yesterday criticised "gamesmanship" at the Games tournament in Kuala Lumpur where referees are being relayed to coaches at ringside.

It is forbidden to signal scores to corners during bouts, but some countries have been doing so — and walkie-talkies and mini-televisions have even been spotted in the sparse corners.

The punch-by-punch computer scores are displayed in the corner of screens purely as a service to the television audiences.

Before the Games Irwin tried to arrange for running scores to be delivered to each corner at the end of the round so that the practice was open and fair for every country. But the idea, put forward at the technical meeting, was rejected by Games officials.

There were similar problems during the last Games in Victoria and officials had to take steps to ensure that scores were not signalled.

Irwin said: "Some know how the scoring is going and it's totally unfair. It really needs rectifying. We spoke strongly about it in the technical meeting before the competition started. We said that if we wanted wide-open scoring and it's the only game that you don't know the score as you go along — then could we at least have a runner to both corners with the score on a piece of paper? That was rejected."

## Tenpin Bowling

Most Singles: Leading qualifiers 1, K. Ang (Mal) 205; 2, W. Rouse (Can) 207; 3, P. Ryan (Aus) 204; 4, R. Hood (Eng) 201; 5, G. Camilleri (SA) 218.

Most Pairs: Leading qualifiers 1, C. Hinchey (Aus) 252; 2, A. Hinchey (Aus) 252; 3, L. K. Neph (Mal) 207; 4, M. Neph (Mal) 207; 5, S. Zulkifli (Mal) 217.

Most Pairs: Leading qualifiers 1, C. Hinchey (Aus) 252; 2, A. Hinchey (Aus) 252; 3, L. K. Neph (Mal) 207; 4, M. Neph (Mal) 207; 5, S. Zulkifli (Mal) 217.

Most Pairs: Leading qualifiers 1, C. Hinchey (Aus) 252; 2, A. Hinchey (Aus) 252; 3, L. K. Neph (Mal) 207; 4, M. Neph (Mal) 207; 5, S. Zulkifli (Mal) 217.

Most Pairs: Leading qualifiers 1, C. Hinchey (Aus) 252; 2, A. Hinchey (Aus) 252; 3, L. K. Neph (Mal) 207; 4, M. Neph (Mal) 207; 5, S. Zulkifli (Mal) 217.

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Racing

# Tamarisk heads for Breeders' Cup

Graham Rock

**T**AMARISK has been sold to Coolmore and will be sent to Wayne Lukas to be trained for the Breeders' Cup before being retired to stud. But the future for Elmdon, who beat Roger Charlton's sprinter decisively in the July Cup, is less certain.

An impressive winner of the Stanley Leinster Sprint Cup at Haydock, Tamarisk was bought by the Highclere Thoroughbred Racing Syndi-

cate for 78,000 guineas at the Tattersalls Yearling Sales in Newmarket, and Coolmore have paid in excess of £2 million for the recent Group One winner.

Tamarisk will leave Charlton's stable before the end of the month to prepare for the Breeders' Cup day. Wayne Lukas will decide whether his acquisition contests the Sprint, over six furlongs on dirt, or the Mile, on turf.

Charlton thought that his sprinter would not be suited by the kickback of the Churchill Downs dirt track, but he

accepts that it is logical for his best horse to have an American preparation for his final race.

Elmdon has been an enigma this season, winning the July Cup like a champion, but failing in his other races, and he trailed in at the rear behind Tamarisk at Haydock. Mystified by that lacklustre run, and his disappointing effort behind Lochangel in the Nunthorpe Stakes at York, John Dunlop has sent his sprinter to Newmarket for veterinary tests.

Dunlop's Silver Patriarch worked well on Lady Harrier's gallops yesterday morning, and runs in the Irish St Leger on Saturday, in which Godolphin's Kayf Tara will be ridden by John Reid. Frankie Dettori goes to Longchamp to ride Aljabr in the Prix de la Salamandre.

Stravinsky, favourite for the 2,000 Guineas, has been entered for the Selwyn Stakes, but may go for the MILL Reef Stakes at Newbury on Saturday if the ground in France is too testing. His trainer, Aidan O'Brien, has 10 entries for the National Stakes at the Curragh on Sunday but the Champagne Stakes runner-up, Commander Collins, will miss the Irish race and wait for the Grand Critérium.

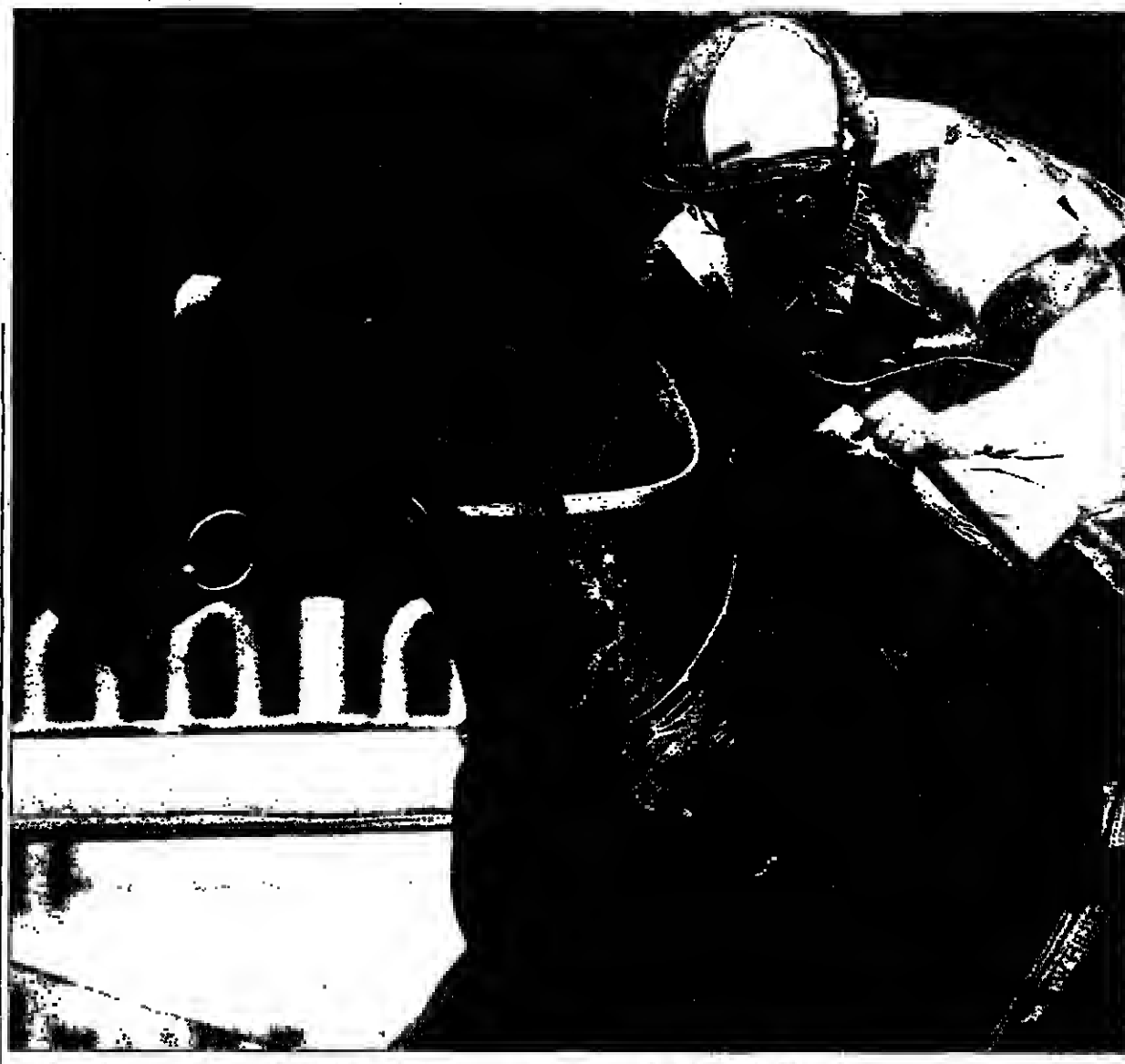
## Caster can plot a smooth course

**I**N the closing weeks of her final season as a trainer, Lynda Ramsden will be flat out to maximize opportunities for the horses in her string and Master Caster (4.00), who joined the yard from David Loder's in the spring, should win his first race for the stable in the John Mangles Memorial Handicap at Beverley, writes Graham Rock.

Over this course last time Master Caster finished a respectable second to Scent Of Success, making good progress in the final 300

yards, having not found room to challenge until Michael Stoute's filly had galloped clear. The winner came on to follow up at Windsor next time.

Master Caster, with stable jockey Jimmy Fortune aboard for the first time in recent weeks, can win at the expense of Holy Smoke, winner of two of her last three races. She receives only 5lb from her selection, though, and off his present mark Master Caster should record his first success on turf.



Royal ruler... Michael Roberts has Royal Fontaine clear in the closing stages at Sandown

## Rugby League Lydon on the warpath

Andy Wilson

**G**REAT Britain's management yesterday used the launch of this autumn's home Test series against New Zealand to warn of the dangers of overlooking the Super League fixture list next year.

Joe Lydon, the Rugby Football League's performance director, pledged to lead resistance to proposals for a 30-match season, compared with this year's 23, even though only one new club, Gateshead, had to be fitted in to the fixtures.

"The game cannot be dictated to," he said. "Yes, finance is important. But we must remember that the bottom line is the performance of the players and once you start to dilute that by over-exposure, you get sub-standard rugby."

Andy Goodway and Andy Farrell, the Great Britain coach and captain respectively, echoed Lydon's views and found another ally in the Bradford club captain Robbie Farra, who is hoping to play for New Zealand in the Tests at Buxton, Bolton and Watford, on October 31, November 7 and 14.

## Sandown Jackpot card

GRAHAM ROCK	TOP FORM
2.15 2.45 3.20 3.50 4.25 4.55 5.25	2.15 2.45 3.20 3.50 4.25 4.55 5.25

Right-handed, leading camp of 1m5l with 400 n.m. Straight 5l which is uphill through. Going: Good, Good to Soft in places. \* Don't bet. Draw: High numbers best in 2.45 & 4.55. Scent Of Success, 3.20 Holy Smoke, 4.25 Holy Smoke, 5.25 Holy Smoke.

2.15 E.B.F. NOVICE STAKES 2YO	7/12.53.4 (4 declared)
181 (4) 182 (4) 183 (4) 184 (4)	181 (4) 182 (4) 183 (4) 184 (4)

2.45 NON OILFIELD SERVICES MAIDEN AUCTION STAKES 2YO	7/12.53.4 (20 declared)
201 (1) 202 (1) 203 (1) 204 (1) 205 (1) 206 (1) 207 (1) 208 (1) 209 (1) 210 (1) 211 (1) 212 (1) 213 (1) 214 (1) 215 (1) 216 (1) 217 (1) 218 (1) 219 (1) 220 (1)	201 (1) 202 (1) 203 (1) 204 (1) 205 (1) 206 (1) 207 (1) 208 (1) 209 (1) 210 (1) 211 (1) 212 (1) 213 (1) 214 (1) 215 (1) 216 (1) 217 (1) 218 (1) 219 (1) 220 (1)

3.20 WEATHERS'S MARKETING SERVICES HANDICAP	7/12.53.4 (16 declared)
301 (1) 302 (1) 303 (1) 304 (1) 305 (1) 306 (1) 307 (1) 308 (1) 309 (1) 310 (1) 311 (1) 312 (1) 313 (1) 314 (1) 315 (1) 316 (1) 317 (1) 318 (1) 319 (1) 320 (1)	301 (1) 302 (1) 303 (1) 304 (1) 305 (1) 306 (1) 307 (1) 308 (1) 309 (1) 310 (1) 311 (1) 312 (1) 313 (1) 314 (1) 315 (1) 316 (1) 317 (1) 318 (1) 319 (1) 320 (1)

3.50 E.B.F. MAIDEN FILLIES' STAKES 2YO	7/12.53.4 (10 declared)
401 (1) 402 (1) 403 (1) 404 (1) 405 (1) 406 (1) 407 (1) 408 (1) 409 (1) 410 (1)	401 (1) 402 (1) 403 (1) 404 (1) 405 (1) 406 (1) 407 (1) 408 (1) 409 (1) 410 (1)

4.25 SURBITON FILLIES' HANDICAP 3YO	7/12.53.4 (10 declared)
501 (1) 502 (1) 503 (1) 504 (1) 505 (1) 506 (1) 507 (1) 508 (1) 509 (1) 510 (1)	501 (1) 502 (1) 503 (1) 504 (1) 505 (1) 506 (1) 507 (1) 508 (1) 509 (1) 510 (1)

4.55 WILLOW CLAIMING STAKES	5/12.53.4 (14 declared)
601 (1) 602 (1) 603 (1) 604 (1) 605 (1) 606 (1) 607 (1) 608 (1) 609 (1) 610 (1) 611 (1) 612 (1) 613 (1) 614 (1) 615 (1) 616 (1) 617 (1) 618 (1) 619 (1) 620 (1)	601 (1) 602 (1) 603 (1) 604 (1) 605 (1) 606 (1) 607 (1) 608 (1) 609 (1) 610 (1) 611 (1) 612 (1) 613 (1) 614 (1) 615 (1) 616 (1) 617 (1) 618 (1) 619 (1) 620 (1)

5.25 LEVY BOARD HANDICAP	1m 10/12.53.4 (18 declared)
701 (1) 702 (1) 703 (1) 704 (1) 705 (1) 706 (1) 707 (1) 708 (1) 709 (1) 710 (1) 711 (1) 712 (1) 713 (1) 714 (1) 715 (1) 716 (1) 717 (1) 718 (1) 719 (1) 720 (1)	701 (1) 702 (1) 703 (1) 704 (1) 705 (1) 706 (1) 707 (1) 708 (1) 709 (1) 710 (1) 711 (1) 712 (1) 713 (1) 714 (1) 715 (1) 716 (1) 717 (1) 718 (1) 719 (1) 720 (1)

5.55 NEWTON SELLING STAKES	1m 20/12.53.4 (10 declared)
801 (1) 802 (1) 803 (1) 804 (1) 805 (1) 806 (1) 807 (1) 808 (1) 809 (1) 810 (1)	801 (1) 802 (1) 803 (1) 804 (1) 805 (1) 806 (1) 807 (1) 808 (1) 809 (1) 810 (1)

6.25 NORTH SEA CONDITIONS STAKES	1m 30/12.53.4 (10 declared)
901 (1) 902 (1) 903 (1) 904 (1) 905 (1) 906 (1) 907 (1) 908 (1) 909 (1) 910 (1)	901 (1) 902 (1) 903 (1) 904 (1) 905 (1) 906 (1) 907 (1) 908 (1) 909 (1) 910 (1)

6.55 E.B.F. HALVERGATE MAIDEN FILLIES' STAKES 2YO	7/12.53.4 (10 declared)
1001 (1) 1002 (1) 1003 (1) 1004 (1) 1005 (1) 1006 (1) 1007 (1) 1008 (1) 1009 (1) 1010 (1)	1001 (1) 1002 (1) 1003 (1) 1004 (1) 1005 (1) 1006 (1) 1007 (1) 1008 (1) 1009 (1) 1010 (1)

7.25 SANDOWN JACKPOT CARD	7/12.53.4 (10 declared)
1101 (1) 1102 (1) 1103 (1) 1104 (1) 1105 (1) 1106 (1) 1107 (1) 1108 (1) 1109 (1) 1110 (1)	1101 (1) 1102 (1) 1103 (1) 1104 (1) 1105 (1) 1106 (1) 1107 (1) 1108 (1) 1109 (1) 1110 (1)

7.55 SANDOWN JACKPOT CARD	7/12.53.4 (10 declared)
1201 (1) 1202 (1) 1203 (1) 1204 (1) 1205 (1) 1206 (1) 1207 (1) 1208 (1) 1209 (1) 1210 (1)	1201 (1) 1202 (1) 1203 (1) 1204 (1) 1205 (1) 1206 (1) 1207 (1) 1208 (1) 1209 (1) 1210 (1)

8.25 SANDOWN JACKPOT CARD	7/12.53.4 (10 declared)
1301 (1) 1302 (1) 1303 (1) 1304 (1) 1305 (1) 1306 (1) 1307 (1) 1308 (1) 1309 (1) 1310 (1)	1301 (1) 1302 (1) 1303 (1) 1304 (1) 1305 (1) 1306 (1) 1307 (1) 1308 (1) 1309 (1) 1310 (1)

8.55 SANDOWN JACKPOT CARD	7/12.53.4 (10 declared)
1401 (1) 1402 (1) 1403 (1) 1404 (1) 1405 (1) 1406 (1) 1407 (1) 1408 (1) 1409 (1) 1410 (1)	1401 (1) 1402 (1) 1403 (1) 1404 (1) 1405 (1) 1406 (1) 1407 (1) 1408 (1) 1409 (1) 1410 (1)

9.25 SANDOWN JACKPOT CARD	7/12.53.4 (10 declared)
1501 (1) 1502 (1) 1503 (1) 1504 (1) 1505 (1) 1506 (1) 1507 (1) 1508 (1) 1509 (1) 1510 (1)	1501 (1) 1502 (1) 1503 (1) 1504 (1) 1505 (1) 1506 (1) 1507 (1) 1508 (1) 1509 (1) 1510 (1)

9.55 SANDOWN JACKPOT CARD	7/12.53.4 (10 declared)
1601 (1) 1602 (1) 1603 (1) 1604 (1) 1605 (1) 1606 (1) 1607 (1) 1608 (1) 1609 (1) 1610 (1)	1601 (1) 1602 (1) 1603 (1) 1604 (1) 1605 (1) 1606 (1) 1607 (1) 1608 (1) 1609 (1) 1610 (1)

## Beverly eight-race card

GRAHAM ROCK	TOP FORM
1.55 2.25 2.55 3.25 3.55 4.25 4.55 5.25	1.55 2.25 2.55 3.25 3.55 4.25 4.55 5.25

Right-handed, leading camp of 1m5l with 400 n.m. Straight 5l which is uphill through. Going: Good, Good to Soft in places. \* Don't bet. Draw: High numbers best in 2.45 & 4.55. Scent Of Success, 3.20 Holy Smoke, 4.25 Holy Smoke, 5.25 Holy Smoke.

1.55 TATTERSALLS MAIDEN AUCTION STAKES 2YO (DIV 1)	7/12.53.4 (11 declared)
181 (4) 182 (4) 183 (4) 184 (4)	181 (4) 182 (4) 183 (4) 184 (4)

2.25 E.B.F. CARROWAY MAIDEN FILLIES' STAKES 2YO	7/12.53.4 (15 declared)
201 (1) 202 (1) 203 (1) 204 (1) 205 (1) 206 (1) 207 (1) 208 (1) 209 (1) 210 (1) 211 (1) 212 (1) 213 (1) 214 (1) 215 (1) 216 (1) 217 (1) 218 (1) 219 (1) 220 (1)	201 (1) 202 (1) 203 (1) 204 (1) 205 (1) 206 (1) 207 (1) 208 (1) 209 (1) 210 (1) 211 (1) 212 (1) 213 (1) 214 (1) 215 (1) 216 (1) 217 (1) 218 (1) 219 (1) 220 (1)

2.55 SPINKY'S MADE IT TO GO SELLING NURSERY HANDICAP 2YO	7/12.53.4 (17 declared)
221 (1) 222 (1) 223 (1) 224 (1) 225 (1) 226 (1) 227 (1) 228 (1) 229 (1) 230 (1) 231 (1) 232 (1) 233 (1) 234 (1) 235 (1) 236 (1) 237 (1) 238 (1) 239 (1) 240 (1)	221 (1) 222 (1) 223 (1) 224 (1) 225 (1) 226 (1) 227 (1) 228 (1) 229 (1) 230 (1) 231 (1) 232 (1) 233 (1) 234 (1) 235 (1) 236 (1) 237 (1) 238 (1) 239 (1) 240 (1)

3.30 TATTERSALLS MAIDEN AUCTION STAKES 2YO (DIV 2)	7/12.53.4 (11 declared)
241 (1) 242 (1) 243 (1) 244 (1) 245 (1) 246 (1) 247 (1) 248 (1) 249 (1) 250 (1) 251 (1) 252 (1) 253 (1) 254 (1) 255 (1) 256 (1) 257 (1) 258 (1) 259 (1) 260 (1)	241 (1) 242 (1) 243 (1) 244 (1) 245 (1) 246 (1) 247 (1) 248 (1) 249 (1) 250 (1) 251 (1) 252 (1) 253 (1) 254 (1) 255 (1) 256 (1) 257 (1) 258 (1) 259 (1) 260 (1)

4.00 JOHN MANGLES MEMORIAL HANDICAP STAKES	1m 10/12.53.4 (19 declared)
261 (1) 262 (1) 263 (1) 264 (1) 265 (1) 266 (1) 267 (1) 268 (1) 269 (1) 270 (1) 271 (1) 272 (1) 273 (1) 274 (1) 275 (1) 276 (1) 277 (1) 278 (1) 279 (1) 280 (1)	261 (1) 262 (1) 263 (1) 264 (1) 265 (1) 266 (1) 267 (1) 268 (1) 269 (1) 270 (1) 271 (1) 272 (1) 273 (1) 274 (1) 275 (1) 276 (1) 277 (1) 278 (1) 279 (1) 280 (1)

4.35 ARAGON MAIDEN STAKES 2YO	7/12.53.4 (10 declared)
281 (1) 282 (1) 283 (1) 284 (1) 285 (1) 286 (1) 287 (1) 288 (1) 289 (1) 290 (1)	281 (1) 282 (1) 283 (1) 284 (1) 285 (1) 286 (1) 287 (1) 288 (1) 289 (1) 290 (1)

4.45 E.B.F. FLESBOROUGH MAIDEN STAKES 2YO	7/12.53.4 (10 declared)
291 (1) 292 (1) 293 (1) 294 (1) 295 (1) 296 (1) 297 (1) 298 (1) 299 (1) 300 (1)	291 (1) 292 (1) 293 (1) 294 (1) 295 (1) 296 (1) 297 (1) 298 (1) 299 (1) 300 (1)

5.15 SANDOWN JACKPOT CARD	7/12.53.4 (10 declared)
301 (1) 302 (1) 303 (1) 304 (1) 305 (1) 306 (1) 307 (1) 308 (1) 309 (1) 310 (1)	301 (1) 302 (1) 303 (1) 304 (1) 305 (1) 306 (1) 307 (1) 308 (1) 309 (1) 310 (1)

5.45 SANDOWN JACKPOT CARD	7/12.53.4 (10 declared)
311 (1) 312 (1) 313 (1) 314 (1) 315 (1) 316 (1) 317 (1) 318 (1) 319 (1) 320 (1)	311 (1) 312 (1) 313 (1) 314 (1) 315 (1) 316 (1) 317 (1) 318 (1) 319 (1) 320 (1)

6.15 SANDOWN JACKPOT CARD	7/12.53.4 (10 declared)
321 (1) 322 (1) 323 (1) 324 (1) 325 (1) 326 (1) 327 (1) 328 (1) 329 (1) 330 (1)	321 (1) 322 (1) 323 (1) 324 (1) 325 (1) 326 (1) 327 (1) 328 (1) 329 (1) 330 (1)

6.45 SANDOWN JACKPOT CARD	7/12.53.4 (10 declared)
331 (1) 332 (1) 333 (1) 334 (1) 335 (1) 336 (1) 337 (1) 338 (1) 339 (1) 340 (1)	331 (1) 332 (1) 333 (1) 334 (1) 335 (1) 336 (1) 337 (1) 338 (1) 339 (1) 340 (1)

7.15 SANDOWN JACKPOT CARD	7/12.53.4 (10 declared)
341 (1) 342 (1) 343 (1) 344 (1) 345 (1) 346 (1) 347 (1) 348 (1) 349 (1) 350 (1)	341 (1) 342 (1) 343 (1) 344 (1) 345 (1) 346 (1) 347 (1) 348 (1) 349 (1) 350 (1)

7.45 SANDOWN JACKPOT CARD	7/12.53.4 (10 declared)
351 (1) 352 (1) 353 (1) 354 (1) 355 (1) 356 (1) 357 (1) 358 (1) 359 (1) 360 (1)	351 (1) 352 (1) 353 (1) 354 (1) 355 (1) 356 (1) 357 (1) 358 (1) 359 (1) 360 (1)

8.15 SANDOWN JACKPOT CARD	7/12.53.4 (10 declared)
361 (1) 362 (1) 363 (1) 364 (1) 365 (1) 366 (1) 367 (1) 368 (1) 369 (1) 370 (1)	361 (1) 362 (1) 363 (1) 364 (1) 365 (1) 366 (1) 367 (1) 368 (1) 369 (1) 370 (1)

8.45 SANDOWN JACKPOT CARD	7/12.53.4 (10 declared)
371 (1) 372 (1) 373 (1) 374 (1) 375 (1) 376 (1) 377 (1) 378 (1) 379 (1) 380 (1)	371 (1) 372 (1) 373 (1) 374 (1) 375 (1) 376 (1) 377 (1) 378 (1) 379 (1) 380 (1)

9.15 SANDOWN JACKPOT CARD	7/12.53.4 (10 declared)
381 (1) 382 (1) 383 (1) 384 (1) 385 (1) 386 (1) 387 (1) 388 (1) 389 (1) 390 (1)	381 (1) 382 (1) 383 (1) 384 (1) 385 (1) 386 (1) 387 (1) 388 (1) 389 (1) 390 (1)

## Yarmouth runners and riders

GRAHAM ROCK	TOP FORM
1.55 2.25 2.55 3.25 3.55 4.25 4.55 5.25	1.55 2.25 2.55 3.25 3.55 4.25 4.55 5.25

Right-handed, leading camp of 1m5l with 400 n.m. Straight 5l which is uphill through. Going: Good, Good to Soft in places. \* Don't bet. Draw: High numbers best in 2.45 & 4.55. Scent Of Success, 3.20 Holy Smoke, 4.25 Holy Smoke, 5.25 Holy Smoke.

1.55 TATTERSALLS MAIDEN AUCTION STAKES 2YO (DIV 1)	7/12.53.4 (11 declared)
181 (4) 182 (4) 183 (4) 184 (4)	181 (4) 182 (4) 183 (4) 184 (4)

7/11.00.53.829 (15 declared)			
1 (1)	Q Al Swallow (22) J Darling 8-11	J Forsman	82
2 (2)	Ampleson (11) M. Stanton 8-11	K Darley	82
3 (11)	3 Fendrick (11) M. Johnston 8-11	D. Holland	88
4 (1)	59 Karmena (11) B. McKinnon 8-11	L. Munro	85
5 (1)	2 Miles Arch (12) G. O'Dwyer 8-11	G. Rankin	82
6 (1)	5 Myriad Blue (14) M. J. Johnston 8-11	Allen	86
7 (1)	5 Siskin (11) M. Johnston 8-11	F. J. Gave	86
8 (1)	5 Super (12) J. Gordon 8-11	D. O'Dwyer	86







**SPORTS NEWS 15**

### Champions League, Group D: Manchester United v Barcelona

out Peter Schmeichel as he juggled with the team in order to comply with the UEFA restriction on foreign players.

"I gambled," Ferguson recalled. "We had to win and the 10 outfield players I picked were very experienced. But we missed Schmeichel's presence and Romario killed us that night."

This will be Dwight Yorke's first taste of Champions League football although he had played in Europe for Aston Villa before his £12.6million move to Old

"Dwight plays with a smile on his face," the United manager said, "and I don't think the occasion will faze him. Different players take big games different ways. Some will always tense up, no matter how experienced they are, but I'm sure Dwight will be very relaxed."

A win for United, travel to Bavaria in a fortnight's time to face Bayern Munich, is an essential first if Ferguson's hitherto frustrated European Cup ambitions are to stand a chance this season.

Should Giggs reproduce his fine performance of last autumn, when United beat

but I'm sure Dwight will be very relaxed."

Bavaria in a fortnight's time to face Bayern Munich, is essential if Ferguson's bid to win the European Cup with Manchester United has any chance this season.

Should Giggs reproduce his fine performance of last autumn, when United beat Juventus 3-2, at least the spectre of Nott Camp will be fading exorcism. And a year later they will be competing Champions League fixtures, at Newcastle United, by that same score.

**Westerwell** Under (probable): Schuster; G Naville, Sam Johnson (for Kirin); Irwin, Steffen, Kean, Scholze, S. Brown, J. Brown, C. Brown, D. Brown.  
**Stroud** (possible): Hoop; Pottinger (for Charnock); West; Giggs; Lyle; Pigg, R. Brown, M. Brown, G. Brown, A. Brown, B. Brown, C. Brown, D. Brown, E. Brown, F. Brown, G. Brown, H. Brown, I. Brown, J. Brown, K. Brown, L. Brown, M. Brown, N. Brown, O. Brown, P. Brown, Q. Brown, R. Brown, S. Brown, T. Brown, U. Brown, V. Brown, W. Brown, X. Brown, Y. Brown, Z. Brown.

**EPIC takes over Radio, page 6**

passed 1,000 runs (this year there is only one, Ben Smith) and five bowlers took 40 wickets or more (this year there is one, Alan Mullally).

minis was pivotal. He scored 100 runs and, very important, he was the wicket-keeper. This season he went into their penultimate game, against Essex, with only 19 wickets and his 194 against Nottinghamshire represented more than half his total. He only took 10 more.

"The important thing is that this is essentially the same side," said Whitaker. "From last season Chris Lewis, Ian Smith, Ian Parsons and Iain Sutherland have come in for me, but the beauty this season is that they have dovetailed so well.

"I think our bowlers are very technique-orientated, others just like to go out and hit the ball. But they all have a pretty sound technique. I've watched a lot of cricket this season and I think the young players who look great in their flashy cars and sunglasses and trackuits but don't have the basic technique to take on

**Whitaker ... always there**

ure coach, Don Bennett. The new coach, the Australian John Buchanan, is a cerebral new-era figure who has spent his time videotaping everything the players do. He will apparently be spending winter studying the tapes. "Good luck to him," said one regular "Lord's-goer." "I wouldn't want to watch that rubbish again. That's the worst I've seen."

Absentee captains need to be extra-special. Mark Ramprakash has not been. So new captains all round, then? But who? The answer is a rumour that Mark Taylor is contemplating a bit of county cricket as a consolation for not being at the World Cup. Meritings is he? A bundle of cheery books. Assuming county cricket still exists.

**W**INSTON DAVIS, the former West Indian star bowler, will be 40 on Friday. It will not be an entirely unhappy occasion. On Sunday, he is due to attend his birthday party — the first time he will have been out of hospital in 10½ months, since the horrific accident which left him in a tetraplegic.

In the *Observer* we saw since this paper wrote about his plight and his resilience — and cricket's failure to give him the kind of benefit healthy players expect as routine — Guardian readers have subsequently waited for...

...£18,535. In an astonishing impromptu outpouring of warmth and kindness.

Thanks to you, he should soon have the vehicle he needs to leave hospital permanent parking, so that I will hand over the last of the cheques, and the very moving letters you have written. Basically, this is to say thank you not please. But it would be nice if we could get the final figure to £20,000, wouldn't it?

England's batsman Graham Thorpe could return for Surrey in tomorrow's make-or-break Championship clash with Leicestershire. The left-hander missed the final three Tests of the summer following a back operation.

**New Year's Day**, killing off speculation that Wigan would provide the opposition.

**Chess**

England's Jovanka Houska, 18, defeated the No.2 seed Joanna Dworakowska to strengthen her grip on a medal place at the European Girls Championship in Erevan, Armenia. She has seven points from 10 games and achieved her third and final norm for the women's international master title, *writes Leonard Barden.*

## Wenger pondering the Bergkamp fear factor

Wenger said he was not surprised that Arsenal got off to a good start. Tonight's tie, along with the following two at home to Panathinaikos and away to Olympique Lyonnais, threatened to turn Arsenal's season into a threat. Dynamo Kiev, will feature Dennis Bergkamp, but Arsenal's visits to the Ukraine and Greece will have to be made without the side's main attacking influence because of their suspension.

As his Holland team-mate Marc Overmars says: "We can't afford to lose in Lens. We have got to get points at the start because we will really miss Dennis later on."

Wenger recalls Adams and Nicolas Anelka, who were sent off for Saturday's match at Leicester, but Ray Parlour admits a fitness test on a groin injury, Emmanuel Petit, however, is probably fit to play.

Wenger is probably right in training. Lens have made a poor start to their domestic league campaign having sold several members of their title-winning team. But Wenger still rates their attacking threat.

## Panthers stick video nasty in the post

"I know the ref was on the pot but I've seen many players thrown out of games for much less," said Blaisdell who also collected two minutes himself for unsportsmanlike conduct when arguing with the official.

## Tennis

**the Tour of Spain — his second stage-win of the race — the 199-kilometres (120 miles) from Vich to Andorra. Abraham Olano, also of Banastor, retained the yellow jersey.**

**Athletics**

An injured beel has forced Liz McColgan out of next month's Great North Run, an event the Scot has won three times.

**Rugby League**

Leeds will host Halifax on Boxing Day and Castleford on

— the 199-km (124 miles) from V. Abraham Olari

New Year's Day, killing off speculation that Wigan would provide the opposition.

**Chess**

England's Jovanka Houska, 18, defeated the No.2 seed Joanna Dzworakowska to strengthen her grip on a medal place at the European Girls Championship in Erevan, Armenia. She has seven points from 10 games and achieved her third and final norm for the women's international master title, writes *Leonard Barden*.



Australia turn the pool gold, page 12

Liverpool run riot in Slovakia, page 14

Tamarisk set for Breeders' Cup, page 13

Ferguson ready for the fray, page 15

## SportsGuardian

## Substitute strikes twice in dying minutes



One jump ahead... the Aston Villa defender Alan Wright leaps to avoid a tackle from Ousman Nyan of Stromsgodset at Villa Park last night

Uefa Cup, first round, first leg: Aston Villa 3 Stromsgodset 2

## Vassell turns the tables

Ian Maitland

**D**ARIUS VASSELL, an 80th-minute substitute, turned Villa's world around last night in an astonishing finale at Villa Park. Vassell, who has never scored a first-team goal, equalised with 10 seconds of normal time remaining and three minutes

later, after Alan Thompson had worked his way into the penalty area and had his shot parried, Vassell scored the winner to keep Villa's unlikely European hopes alive. Earlier two goals in as many minutes midway into the first half had promised to make it a very nervy crossing for Villa when they crossed the North Sea to meet the Norwegians in a fortnight's time. Though

Gary Charles had buoyed their hopes with a precious goal seven minutes from time. Stromsgodset had been played the last 22 minutes with 10 men when their defender Kenneth Karlsson was dismissed for a second bookable offence after holding back the substitute Riccardo Schmecca. Villa's audacious attempt to snatch Alan Shearer off the peg in Newcastle's autumn

sales is an indication of John Gregory's ambition for the surprise early leaders of the Premiership. Daryn Byfield stepped in for his first game of the season in an emergency striking role for Villa in the continued absence of Stan Collymore and with Paul Merson cup-tied. Stromsgodset are still fighting a battle against relegation

back home in a domestic season which ends next month. Their defensive record is the worst in Norway's Premier League and last night they were without the two players who would have been recognised in England, the former Sheffield United striker Jostein Flo and the one-time Chelsea defender Erlend Johnsen.

In their previous three European visits to England Stromsgodset had conceded 21 goals, including an 11-0 thrashing at Liverpool in 1974. Stromsgodset's problems were compounded early on when their midfielder Hans Erik Odegard was carried off with his right leg strapped after a reckless challenge by Alan Thompson who was booked. Morten Kihle was then shown a yellow card for a rash challenge on Lee Hendrie. Byfield and his striking partner Julian Joachim both went close for Villa against a cautious side playing with only Anders Michelsen up front. But Michelsen soon caught Villa and particularly Gareth

Southgate cold, cutting in from the right to outpace the England defender in the penalty area in the 21st minute. Mark Bosnich parried his first shot with his right hand but Michelsen cracked home the rebound.

Two minutes later the tiny knot of Norwegian fans were celebrating again as Rune Hagen crossed from the right for the substitute Christer George made it 2-0. Southgate headed over the bar from Thompson's corner and Joachim's pace continued to pose the Norwegians problems but Villa's anxiety began to look like desperation as they poured forward.

George was booked for tripping Joachim but Stromsgodset somehow clung on, almost putting the game beyond Villa's reach when Bosnich had to spread himself to save Michelsen's shot from point-blank range on one of the visitors' rare counter-attacks. Aston Villa (9-3-3): Bosnich; Charles, Southgate, Wright, Barry, Grayson (Taylor, 57), Draper (Schmecca, 67), Thompson, Hendrie, Joachim, Byfield (Vassell, 80). Stromsgodset (4-5-1): Hansen, Wehnert, Karlsson, Grønås, Skjerve, Solberg, Nyan, Hagen, Odegard (George, 10, 50 min, 71), Kihle, Michelsen. Referee: H. Strömpe (Germany).

## Cold hand who put the freeze on Everton



Paul Weaver

**H**AVE you ever considered, as you whizz round on this hairy bauble, what a more benign place the world might be if only people had stuck to their original professions?

Genghis Khan, we are told, was a perfectly good goatherd. Poi Poi was a Buddhist monk and Joseph Stalin a trainee priest before they opted for career makeovers. Joseph Goebbels was an accountant beyond reproach and Heinrich Himmler a reputable clerk with a company in the agricultural fertiliser business.

Al Capone was a furniture dealer and Nostradamus, before he started worrying everyone sick with his cryptic and apocalyptic predictions, wrote about jam-making. At least Ronnie and Reggie Kray made a successful job switch — they used to be agents for Alvin Stardust.

I have always felt the same way about football chairmen, about how much better off clubs would be if only some very rich men concentrated on their proper nine-to-fives and kept away from the game; how, for example, Tottenham might now be a thriving concern if only Alan Sugar had not got bored and taken his eye off his Amstrad screen.

Most of all, though, I wonder where Everton Football Club, who are now on their 14th manager since the war, might be without the meddlings of Peter Johnson. He is the sort of chairman who gives even Manchester United's Martin Edwards a good name.

If only Johnson had concentrated on his frozen foods business, Park Foods, Goodison Park would now be a rather different place. He has made such a mess of things that it is little wonder he is now having trouble flogging his new low-calorie oven chip. It serves him right.

I think about Johnson a lot but especially since Monday when he launched an attack on Everton's former manager Howard Kendall that might be considered, in the modern parlance, inappropriate. Johnson had been accused of "gross mismanagement" at

an extraordinary general meeting called by the club's disillusioned shareholders. One claimed that the board had spent £100 million in 10 years turning the club "from champs to chumps".

Johnson, who is considered an absentee landlord because he lives in Jersey and is allowed only 90 days on the mainland, responded with a bitter attack on the most successful manager in the club's history, the man who led them to league titles in 1985 and 1987, as well as the FA Cup in 1984 and the European Cup Winners' Cup the following year.

Johnson sacked Mike Walker and Joe Royle and did not allow Kendall to spend the sort of money that is now available before he sacked him too and then freed the purse strings for Walter Smith, his fourth manager in 25 many years.

Johnson questioned Kendall's judgment when he said: "It would have been totally wrong of me to release the purse strings last year. There was no problem with the cash side, just the quality of player. Did you want Howard to spend all the money on the type of players he brought in last year? I think you would have been appalled."

**J**OHNSON is the former season-ticket holder at neighbouring Anfield who advertised in the local newspaper for unwanted Liverpool shares, and who declared, when he took charge in 1994, that running Everton would be his hobby while he concentrated on his frozen foods.

This is a chairman who has appeared more interested in fattening up the club for the stockmarket than in results, who has talked hitherto about selling Goodison Park to Tesco and moving home to Kirkby golf course. This is a chairman who has had to be smuggled out of the club after some matches and who, after promising Slaven Bilic, signed from West Ham, that he would also sign Dino Baggio and Pierluigi Casiraghi, instead brought in Mitch Ward and Tony Thomas.

This is a chairman who has seen his famous club make yet another predictably bleak start to the season and who has chosen to blame one of the club's favourite sons, as both player and manager, whom he brought back to Goodison Park for his third stint in charge.

I will avoid Goodison Park this season. On balance, I think I would rather meet Genghis or Heinrich.

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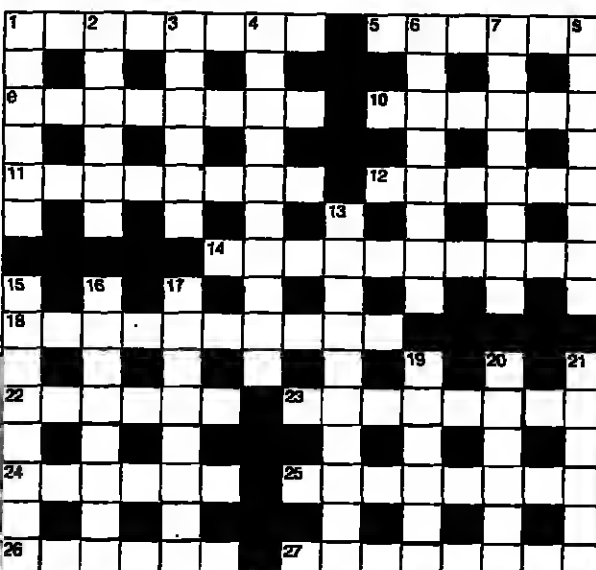
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## Guardian Crossword No 21,381

Set by Araucaria



## Across

- 1 Dressed Jo in a cap to carry quinces (6)
- 5 See 21
- 9 Clay's bad name has weight (6)
- 10 Teacher's model was 12's Peter (6)
- 11 Gentle about a false person, one with nine noughts (6)
- 12 Move slowly about at the wheel? (6)
- 14 Get clues or letters for city of 12's 22 (10)
- 18 Rebelliousness in the South requiring immediate attention (10)
- 22 He'll have one suited with gold at the last (6)
- 23 When bells ring, say, at sea? (6)
- 24 12's spice got pickled (it's a guttural in German) (6)

## Down

- 1 She says she's a jewel, with ... (6)
- 2 ... water for 12's duck (6)
- 3 12's squirrel's crazy, like (6)
- 4 Ruler (maybe fat) continued to wave (10)
- 6 Academic introductions, first to milk pudding and (last part) sponges (6)
- 7 Youth at the pictures will make things dull (6)
- 8 Part of motor — which arrives shortly for a change (5, 3)
- 13 Brain concealed with cauls beneath the skull (10)
- 15 Atmosphere more than

merry, such that nothing can get out? (6)

16 Bond in France, with fool and giant involved (6)

17 A wave in a sea of trees (6)

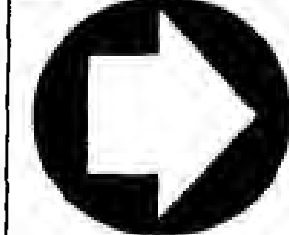
19 12's Tiggy is a shellfish (6)

20 12's Tom has gear for 10 (6)

21, 5 12's French setter — setter's held by arbitrator — is female (5, 6)

## Solution tomorrow

22 Stuck? Then call our solutions line on 0800 333 233. Calls cost 50p per minute at all times. Service supplied by ATS.



Considering what is at stake for him, Previn affects a positively disarming cool as he prepares for the opening night. "I had never thought of writing an opera before," Previn told me. "Principally because, and this is not a joke, nobody had asked me." André Previn tells Martin Kettle about his Streetcar Named Desire

G2 p10

مكتبة الصالح